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History of Marion County,
Alabama

FOREWORD

Marion County (Ala.) Teachers' Association

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Marion County (Ala.) Teachers' Association

HISTORY

of

MARION COUNTY

ALABAMA

by

COUNTY TEACHERS

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FOREWORD

About three years ago a historical group was organized in the Marion County Teachers Association for the purpose of studying the history of Marion County. Very little was known about its history but this group of teachers wanted to find out. After an outline of what they wanted to know the work was begun.

First the Department of Archives at Montgomery was visited but about all the information that could be found there was a few newspaper clippings. On further investigation a few family histories and newspaper articles were found. Next all available copies of the Marion County News and the Winfield Journal were read for history of the county. Many of the oldest citizens were interviewed and they gave valuable information.

A list of all of those who contributed is too long to be published but special recognition should be given the following: The Key Family, Mr. W. B. Ford, Terrell Family, Mr. Joe B. Holley, Shotts and Loyd Families, Colonel James Edgar Shotts, The Wiginton Family, Mrs. Emitt C. Wiginton, The Fite Family, Miss Mattie Fite, Wars, Casualty Section, Office of Public Information, Washington D. C., Slave Record, Department of Archives, Washington, D. C., Government, Congressmen, Department Archives, Washington, D. C., Mrs. C. E. Mitchell, general information, Representatives and Senators, History of Alabama, Mrs. Marie Owens, Various Records, Marion County News and Winfield Journal, Representative Carl Elliot greatly helped in getting the records from Washington.

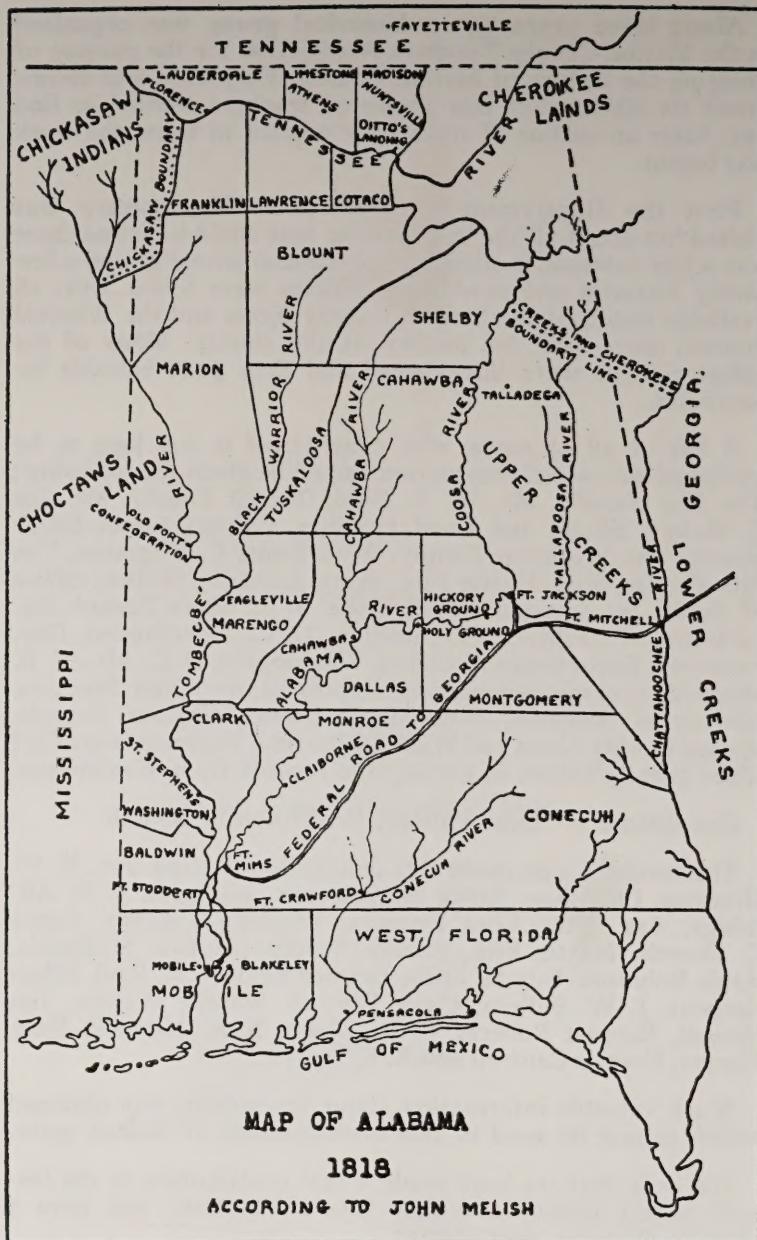
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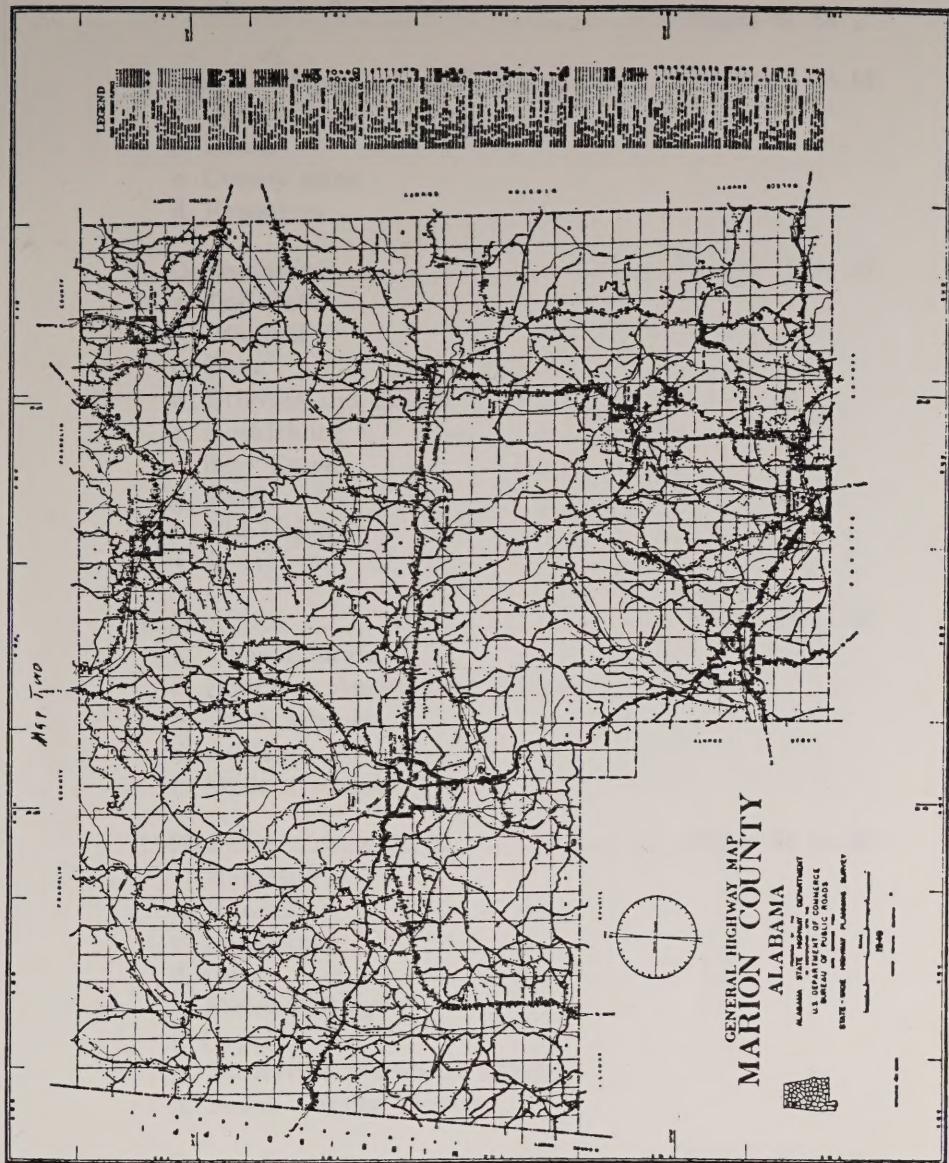
The teachers who made this publication possible are: E. W. Branyon, Chairman, Louis H. Goggans, Recorder, J. D. Allridge, Asa Estes, Cora Feltman, Winfred Goggans, James C. Howell, Mattie Fite, Nannie Sandlin, Murilla McKenzie, Arnie Robinson, Guy H. Mills, Bernice Real, N. M. Real, Hilma Sargent, J. W. Sullens, Cleve Watson, Simmie Watson, Jim Howell, Earnest Roberts, C. W. Duke, T. A. Mitchell, Emitt Harper, Francis Cantrell and A. R. Sartain.

Much valuable information about the county was obtained which cannot be used in this book because of limited space.

We hope that we have made a real contribution to the history of the county and that future historians will have a starting place for their studies.

Note: This was written by a great many people. No effort was made to change individual style of writing.





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EARLY HISTORY

HISTORY OF MARION COUNTY

One hundred and forty years ago Marion County was created as one of the counties of the Alabama Territory. This was done on December 13, 1818. When first created, the county included all the territory east of the headwaters of the Tombigbee River from its source near the Franklin County line, to a point of northern Clark County on this river. Then it extended up the Warrior River to a point north of Tuscaloosa, then in a northwest direction to the southern boundary of Franklin County, then west of the Tombigbee River. This included the present counties of Lamar, Pickens, part of Tuscaloosa, Green, Sumpter, part of Coctaw, Fayette, Walker and Winston counties. The present towns included in this area were: Aberdeen, Columbus, Vernon, Carellton, Eutaw, Fayette, Cardova, Carbon Hill, Jasper, Double Springs and Haleyville.

In 1820 the legislature changed the boundaries from a line near Columbus, Mississippi, east to the Warrior River and to the Jefferson County line, then north to the southeastern corner of Lawrence County, or all the territory west of Blount County. (At that time Cullman County was a part of Blount County).

The county was further reduced in size in 1824 by the formation of Fayette and Walker Counties, in 1850 by Winston and in 1866 by the formation of Lamar County.

The county was named from General Francis Marion of South Carolina. In the Revolutionary War he was known as the "Swamp Fox."

GEOGRAPHY AND LOCATION

The county is situated in what was once the Chicksaw Indian Domain. No Indian settlements were found in the county, but it was thought to be the hunting ground of this tribe. An Indian mound about ten feet high is located at Military Ford and places where Indians ground corn have been found on some of the rocks near Hackleburg, and around Winfield, Arrow-heads have been found in many parts of the country. It is bounded on the west by Mississippi, on the north by Franklin County, on the east by Winston and Walker Counties, on the south by Fayette and Lamar Counties.

The first settlers came from Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. The western part of the county seems to have been settled first and some of the family names of the earliest descendants are still found here. Among these are the: Moormans, Stones, Trueloves, McCarleys,

Northingtons, and Weatherfords, and also some of the early slaves families are still found. These are the McFaddens, Swanigans, Hisborns, Smiths, Bobos, Lochridge, and Keys.

The county is located in the northern coastal plains area and has an elevation of from 492 feet at Hamilton to 931 at Hackleburg, Winfield 468 and Guin to 434. Most of the county is hilly. In the southern part the hills are low and rounded in outline, but in the central and northern part the surface is rough and broken, some parts being mountainous. The northern part of the county is the beginning of the Appalachian Highland and the similar soil and rock formations are found there. Frequently the streams flow against sandstone cliffs 50 to 100 feet high.

The northeastern part of the county is drained by Bear Creek and the streams flowing into it. It flows in a northwestwardly direction and into the Tennessee River near Riverton. The northwestern part of the county is drained by Bull Mountain Creek, which flows in a southwestwardly direction. The remainder of the western part of the county is drained by Sipsy and its tributaries and flows in a southern direction. The southeastern part of the county is drained by streams flowing in a southern direction. The largest of these are: Sipsy, New River, Little New River, Louxapalilla and Beaver Creek.

The central and major part of the county is drained by Buttahatchee River, which flows from near Haleyville, from east to west across two thirds of the county, to Sulligent. Most of the tributaries of this river flow in from the north. With the exception of Bear Creek, all of these streams flow into the Tombigbee and its tributaries. Hackleburg is the dividing line between the Tennessee and Tombigbee Rivers. It is said to be the highest point on the I. C. Railroad from Chicago to Miami.

EARLY ROADS

During the early history of the county roads were of the utmost importance. Supplies had to be hauled from distant points. Roads were built by clearing away trees, and stumps and the use of logs for swampy places. They mostly followed Indian trails on ridges between streams. The Cotton Gin Road ran from Hamilton to a railroad point and boat landing known as Cotton Gin Port. At this time the Tombigbee was navigable to Fulton and river boats came to Cotton Gin Port regularly, bringing supplies, loading cotton, hides, and other products from the inland country. The Eastport road ran from Hamilton to the Tennessee River, with one branch to Corinth to connect with the Natchez Trace. Another important one was the Moulton Road. It ran from Columbus through Guin, Hamilton, Hackleburg, Russellville, Moulton, Courtland to the Tennessee River. The Military Road, so called because it was used by Gen. Andrew Jackson on his return from the Battle of New Orleans. It ran from Natchez, Mississippi to

Nashville, Tennessee and crossed Buttahatchee river at Military Ford. Jackson later was commissioned to make improvements on this road and visited this section again. The Biler Road ran through the eastern part of the county from the Tennessee River to Tuscaloosa. It was one of the oldest roads in the state and was used a great deal when Tuscaloosa was the state capital. Gains Trace ran through the western part of the county.

MODERN ROADS

The Bankhead Highway, No. 78, runs through the county from the Walker County line through Winfield, Guin and Hamilton. Since it is a direct route from Memphis to Birmingham it is one of the most traveled roads in the state. Road 43 runs through the county from Hackleburg, Hamilton, Guin, and Winfield, from Florence to Mobile. Paved roads also run from Hamilton to Detroit, Vina and Haleyville. Most of the farm market roads have been paved and the county now has about 300 miles of paved roads. Many other roads are being paved and planned. Other paved highways are 5, 17, 19, 74, 129, 167, 172, 187, and 278.

MARION COUNTY SITES

The first county site was at the home of Henry Greer in the Buttahatchee Community. It was moved to Pikeville where it remained for 62 years. Pikeville was picked as the county site by a commission act of the legislature in 1820. This group was composed of Lemuel Bean, Josly Fitsgerald, Barnes Holloway, George White, Willia Metcalf and William Davis.

When Lamar County was created in 1866, Pikeville was placed in the new county so the next legislature had to change the boundry and give one square mile back to Marion County.

That accounts for the little nick in the northeastern part of Lamar County. Very few records are available about the county site but one tells of a hat factory that made Willard Hats. Another, that a bakery was established there. It consisted of large ovens being cut in a clay bank with shelves on each side. They burned hickory and oak wood to make the coals for baking the bread. Often they cooked 400 loaves of bread at one firing. This was done to accomodate General Andrew Jackson while he was constructing the Military Highway and camped at Military Ford. There were several stores and saloons and one early authority said that over 300 people lived there and that it was larger than Chicago at the time and that Birmingham had not been born. Only one house remains and it is the home of Mrs. Rose Melton. There is also a rather large cemetery about which many legends are told of the mode of burial. Also there are several graves of some of Jackson's Army buried near Pikeville. Tradition says there was a number of court houses built at Pikeville, believed to be around three.

In 1882, an election was held for a new location of the

County Site. This was between Center and Toll Gate. Toll Gate won. The court moved there in 1882 and the name was changed to Hamilton in honor of Captain Albert Hamilton, who gave 40 acres of land for the new county site. Toll Gate had been a post office since about 1818 and the site for the place was said to have been selected by General Jackson. The first wooden court house was burned in 1887. It was rebuilt but was moved in 1901 to give way to the present sandstone structure. The town was called Toll Gate for 56 years. William Ragsdale was an early judge of the county and opened the land where the town now stands. He sold it to Captain A. J. Hamilton.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Marion County has been well blessed with underground wealth. The mineral of greatest value has been coal. Almost one half of the county is underlain with it. These deposits are in the Warrior Coal Field or the Plateau Coal Field. Coal has been mined in the Brilliant area since 1890 and has been one of the main sources of revenue for the county. The Brilliant Coal Company and others have long turned out the best grade of coal in the state. At one time there were over 300 mines in the southeastern part of the county. Most of them were what is called push mines. Recently top working has taken the place of some of the mines.

The county also had several natural gas wells that are producing commercially. At present these are located in the Hamilton area but a new field has been found in the White House section of the county. It is reported to have great possibilities as a commercial field. Marion County had the only commercial gas fields in the state.

The county has another monopoly in the Koalin Mines near Hackleburg. Extensive deposits of this fine clay have been found and it is shipped to the various states for the production of chalk, face powder and other ceramic products.

The county has possibly the greatest deposits of gravel of any county in the state. These deposits have been extensively used in building fine network of paved roads.

The forests of the county have been a great source of wealth. Most of the homes have been made of natural growth pine and oak and great quantities of pine and hardwood lumber have been shipped to other markets. Most of the virgin forest has been cut but the county is covered with a growth of young pines that promise great potential wealth in the future if properly cared for.

Marion County is made up of ten different types of soils. The following are the types and percentage found in the county: Guin fine sandy loam 38.5; Glenn sandy loam 15.6; Ocklocknee fine sandy loam 6.00; Guin Stoney sandy loam 5.9; DeKalb clay 5.0; Norfolk silt loam 3.6; Rough stoney land 3.00; Ocklocknee sand .2.

COMMUNITIES



HISTORY OF TOLL GATE

About 1818 William Ragsdale settled the place where Hamilton now stands. He was the first judge of the county and built a mill and cleared much of the land known as "Toll Gate Farm." The site was later owned by Col. Helvington. He is said to have owned a thousand acres of land between Williams Creek and Buttahatchee River. Slave labor was used to work the farm.

Some of the earliest settlers were William Ragsdale, Robert Clark, Morris Hall, Holloways, Crenshaws, McKays, Meadors, and McFadden families. Among the early builders of Toll Gate were: Col. Helvington, Gen. Cholson, Dr. Key, David Hubbard, Frazier and Sargent families.

Fragmentary records give some accounts of Toll Gate as far back as 1815 and the first post office seems to have been established soon after that date. It is definitely known that General Andrew Jackson came back from the Battle of New Orleans and camped at Military Ford, three miles south of Hamilton. In 1820 he was appointed by the War Department to improve the highways so as to have a good road to operate the Grand Southern Mail, which ran from New Orleans to Nashville. Toll Gate was selected as one of the post offices and a stop over to change teams and pay tolls. It is said that a stage coach from the south would blow a horn for the number of meals the passengers wanted when they were on Cashion

or Lewis Hill about four miles away. In this way the inn keeper could have the meals ready since the stop was short. Later a telegraph line was established from New Orleans to Nashville through Toll Gate. Messages could be sent over this line from Toll Gate to all points of U. S.

TOLL GATE CHARGES

When Toll Gate was first established the charges were set. For each wagon and team, seventy five cents, for each four wheel pleasure carriage seventy-five cents, for each two wheel pleasure cart fifty cents, for one man and horse twelve and one half cents; for each loose or led horse six and one fourth cents, for each head of cattle, four cents, for each head of hogs, sheep or goats two cents, U. S. Mail and express were to go free, also all people on foot or people going to or from a mill, or going to church could go free. Lemuel and Jacob Franks were the First Toll Gate keepers.

In 1886 Hamilton had a few dozen people. Some of these families were: Fites, Fords, Hamiltons, Cashions, Mixons, Frasiers, Clarks, Keys, and Martins. Barnes Holloway lived on what is now Key Branch and was called Holloway Branch for many years. Only during the past 30 years has it been called Key Branch. There were the Terrells, Gaskins, Carpenters, Dunns, Riggins.

Mail came each Saturday afternoon from Aberdeen, Miss., and went to the store of White and Hamilton. J. R. White was postmaster.

Early in the history of the town William Neal came from Pikeville and built the first store. It was located where Mixons Hardware Store now stands. He also built the old house called the Fite House, now owned by Miss Mattie Fite. Frasier and Gost built a store where Clint Cantrell is now located.

HISTORY OF WINFIELD

Winfield was first called Louxapalilla then Needmore but was finally changed to Winfield in honor of General Winfield Scott. It was incorporated as a town between 1887 and 1900 and W. Joseph Trull was the first mayor. Tom Roberts served as mayor for two terms. Others were T. B. Ward, J. R. Whitehead, and W. C. Curl.

Some of the early settlers were: Henry F. Musgrove, Websters, Jones, Bose McCullum, Lige Whitworth, J. L. Harkins, Sheltons, Joseph Trull, Albert May, Felix and Ella McDonald, O. W. Oden, Namber Wheeler, and Albert May. There were 37 families located in 1890.

Elisia Vickery enlisted in the Civil War in 1864 and was captured and sent to Camp Chaise, Ohio. After he returned, he owned much land in the Boston and Piney Grove communities. Ten sets of children called him father. His wives

were Betty Mitchell, Mrs. Mary Moss Weeks, and Mrs. Martha Moss Raines.

In 1837, Martin G. Bowling was postmaster at Palo and later became the postmaster of Winfield, in 1888. Others to serve in this capacity were Newt Whitehead, Joseph McGaha, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Nathan Musgrove, Frank Green, and James McDonald.

Dr. James Woody Whitley was the first doctor. Others have been Drs. Woods, Ivie, Clark Martin, Cicero Wheeler, Franklin Earnest, Vandiver Hill, Randolph, W. J. McCary, ~~R~~ L. Hill, M. C. Hollis, ~~Marcus~~ Hill. The last two came in 1908 and served the town for 50 years.

In 1860, John S. Wheeler moved from Georgia and established a church known as Wheelers Chapel. The Methodist worshiped there until 1900.

HISTORY OF GUIN

B. Harris obtained the first land grant of this area from the United States Government on February 2, 1820. He sold it to his Uncle Allen Haley. Haley owned a stock farm and it became known as Haley's Stand. Haley sold the land to John T. Meador in 1870. Meador sold it to Dr. Jerry Guin in 1873, who moved here on January 26 of that year. The town was named after Dr. Jerry Guin. He donated much of the land for the town and cemetery, and right of way for the Frisco Railroad, which was completed in 1887. After this others began to buy land and move to this area. Meador, stepson of Judge Terrell of Pikeville, operated one of the first stores here.

In 1887 when the Railroad was completed, a golden spike was driven in the ties near the tool house. The community had a big celebration and Private John Allen of Tupelo made the dedicatory speech. After 1888 settlers began to move in. J. F. Collins and Clark White started a store.

Henry Clark was representative from Marion County when Guin was incorporated in 1888. The first newspaper was established in 1889 and was called the Guin Eagle. The second newspaper was called the Guin News. In 1887 the Sides Brothers (Chris, Doc and Lee) ran a saloon in Guin. In 1890 saloons became illegal because of the famous shooting that took place there.

Dee Jones was the first policeman.

Tom Kirk was the first postmaster in 1891.

Bill Wright was the first mayor.

The first bank in Marion County was established here in 1905.

The first Ford agency was established in 1913.

M. M. Frazier served in the Civil War under Stonewall Jackson and was captured at Gettysburg. He stayed in Federal prisons for two years and later served as tax collector of Marion County.

W. A. Collins came to Guin in 1888. His father was J. F. Collins and he bought 30 acres of land and built the third house in Guin. Dr. Guin built the first one and Jim Kirk built the second.

Some of the early families were: Fraziers, Sheltons, Stokes, Hughes, Burlesons, Hulseys, Bairds, Littletons, Weeks, Ingles, Logans, Cashions, and Collins.

Dr. J. B. Clark was the first high school principal and J. B. Hodges was the coach. Joe Woods was the first graduate of the high school in 1912.

HISTORY OF BOSTON AND BRILLIANT

The two towns are so closely located that no attempt has been made to separate their history.

The Houston Family was the first known settlers in this community. Jimmie L. Bostick came from Georgia in 1847 and settled in the Rock City area and later moved to Boston. The Houstons settled at Bostick Springs. One of his girls, Dora, married Diddle Terrell.

Some of the early families were: Houstons, Bosticks, Beauchamps, Greens, Waites, Dickinsons, Gibbs, Cooks, Mays, Mortons, Grenades, Burlesons, and Greens. The town was named in honor of the Bostick family.

The railroad was built to Brilliant in 1898 and a train ran every other day to Aberdeen, Mississippi, to carry coal. Mr. R. E. Moore was the engineer.

Robert Webb sold the land where the railroad was built to the Aldridge Mining Company. The first mine was opened in 1897 and was operated by Herbert Aldridge, with W. B. Dowell as Superintendent, and John Dowell as mine foreman. The name was changed to the Brilliant Coal Company and David Roberts, Jr. became the president, John Lang, Superintendent, W. J. Hinz, master mechanic, Mr. Hinz became the Superintendent until his death. Other families employed by the mine were: George McDonald, John Colburn, Jack Perry, Lem Crenshaw, Charles Buck, and George Mann.

Andrew Wates came in the early 80's and established the first store. He also served as postmaster at Mt. Brock on Jasper Hill.

HISTORY OF HACKLEBURG **As told by Old Settlers**

The name of Hackleburg came from the hackberries which were so numerous that they pulled the wool from the sheep

as they were driven through the town to the market at Tus-
cumbia.

Some of the first settlers were: Fredericks, Cochrans, and Ozberns.

The first post office near Hackleburg was called Chalk Bluff.

It was about 4 miles south of the town and was moved to what is known as Old Hackleburg in 1885. W. W. Frederick was the first postmaster. W. W. Ozberne put in the first store in 1884, in old Hackleburg. He also had a saw mill, gin, and grist mill.

The first school was held in a little log building of the Congregational Methodist Church. When the Methodist Church was built at Cedar Tree, the school was moved there. School was held there until a building was erected on the Boyd Place, near the present site of the high school and grammar school, in 1913. This building was burned in 1921, and classes were taught in the various churches until the building was erected across the street from J. S. Walker residence in 1923. This became the first high school for Hackleburg.

The railroad through Hackleburg was under construction in 1906, and the first train ran in 1908.

W. B. Mixon built the first store and residence at the present site of Hackleburg in 1900. The post office was moved to this location with W. W. Frederick still the postmaster.

Hackleburg is in an agricultural community. The principal industries are cotton gin, a planning business, saw milling, and a kaolin plant established about 1940. A new shirt factory has been completed with about 40 workers and possibly 300 a little later.

HISTORY OF BEAR CREEK

Bear Creek was first called Allens Factory. It was operated by Langdon Allen, and he represented Marion County in the Secession Convention at Montgomery in 1860.

The factory was burned during the closing years of the Civil War but was rebuilt in 1868. It was known as L. C. Allen and Company. It was capitalized at \$20,000 and was run by water power from Bear Creek. The Factory made cotton yarn and operated 640 spindles with 30 hands employed and used 280 bales of cotton each year.

The second factory was known as the Fall Mills Manufacturing Company. It was two and one half miles from Allens Factory and also used water power to operate. It was capitalized at \$15,000 and started operation in 1877. It used 6000 pounds of cotton per day and 600 bales each year.

Bear Creek also had a flour mill to which farmers from 25 to 50 miles away carried their wheat and had it made into flour. No definite date can be fixed as to when it was established, but some of the old buildings were standing in the late 1920's.

The original Bear Creek was about one mile down the creek west of the present town. This was during the Civil War, and just prior to the starting of the present town of Bear Creek. There was one store one mile south of Bear Creek at that time known as Goddard, and was operated by James Donaldson. Then in the late 1880's and early 1900's a railroad known as the Northern Alabama was built to Parrish, Alabama and to Sheffield, Alabama.

J. R. Phillips moved from Thorn Hill to the present town of Bear Creek and built a nice rock building and went into the merchantile business with good success. He reared a large family of boys and girls.

Other early settlers were: Capt. Flippo, who operated a grist mill, Mr. Hull, Mr. John Dundan, who built a cotton gin, Mr. Barker, who operated a blacksmith shop, and Mr. Hatcher, who put up a hotel. Capt. Smith was a section foreman. So with all these early settlers the town grew rapidly.

A Methodist Church was built and soon after the Church of Christ. Col. Brock went into the merchantile business, Dutch Phillip in the grocery business, John Logan was appointed postmaster, and I. B. Johnson was a rural carrier for years.

All these citizens and many more with large families called for a school. A two story frame building was erected but only rooms on the ground floor were used for some years. It was a two-teacher school.

About this time there were hundreds of acres of level land north and west of Bear Creek. They were thought to be of little value, craw-fishy and not fertile. A number of families began to settle this land purchased from \$1.00 to \$10.00 per acre. As they improved the soil and increased the average yield and built nice homes more people moved in. The town became a flourshing little place. It was a trade center for miles around. Since there was no I. C. Railroad in this area at this time, Hackleburg, Wiginton, and even as far down as Hodges used Bear Creek as their trade and shipping center. The Goddards and Tobys who operated a livery stable carried passengers to various places.

The prosperity of those in town and the farmers around, such as Marrows, Manns, Howards, Faulkners, Partians, Vickerys, Coalsons and Woods and a number over in the fork of the Creek, demanded a bigger and better school, so an application was made and now one of the county high schools is there. It is one of the best in the county.

HISTORY OF BYRD COMMUNITY

Byrd Community was named after Mr. W. A. Byrd who gave the land for the first Byrd School grounds.

Early settlers in the community were the Cantrells, Reals, Riggsses, Watsons, Northingtons, Rudicells, Whiteheads, and Scoggins. Some of these early settlers came from Georgia and South Carolina. Many descendants of these early settlers live in the present-day Byrd Community.

The roads throughout the Community have been greatly improved in the last few years. Highway 17, a modern paved road, runs through the center of the community. Other farm to market roads are also paved. Transportation is by privately owned cars and trucks.

An early wool carding factory was located in Byrd Community. It was first owned by Mr. Billy Hamilton and later by Mr. H. R. Riggss. The factory, operated by water power, was in operation for ten or fifteen years. Two hands handled the factory work. For the carding, the operators received wool or money toll. The wool was put in bales and later sold.

Today as formerly, agriculture is the principal occupation of the citizens of Byrd Community. Cotton and corn are the two main crops. Many farmers are supplementing their farm incomes by raising beef cattle and hogs. Some are engaged in dairying.

Two milk routes run through the Community each day picking up the milk and carrying it to market. Some farmers are raising broilers for the market. Some men and many women are employed in the garment factories located in Detroit and Hamilton.

There are four Churches in the Community, Rudicell, Ballard, Cooper, and Mount Joy. Other churches are located just outside of the community boundary lines. All of these serve to meet the religious needs of the people.

The Byrd Community today is one of the most progressive rural Communities in the state. In 1948, a Community Improvement Club was organized, and it has done much to improve living conditions and appearance. The Club sponsored such projects as:

1. Keeping Cemeteries Clean
2. Painting Church houses and and putting out shrubbery
3. Erecting signs for Churches and boundary lines
4. Improving and lettering mailboxes
5. Build a Club House
6. Established roadside parks and picnic areas.
7. Contributed to the Red Cross
8. Distributed Christmas baskets to underprivileged children
9. Farm and home improvement.

In 1954, the Community Club won \$100 in a statewide Community Improvement Contest. For work done in 1955 the Club won top honors for rural improvement, and received \$500 as prizes.

THE ORIGIN OF OLD UNION

In 1865 J. M. Wamsley settled in the N. E. part of Marion County what is now known as the old Union Community. Then in 1867 Harrison Morgan settled in the same community, and in 1880 V. R. Nations also made a settlement there. A little later the community became the home of the Jordans. They all had farms and cultivated them with hoes and did the plowing with oxen. In 1882 J. M. Donaldson settled and put in a grist mill and a small store in order that people might get some of their produce closer home. His mill was run by water with a dam across the creek so he might grind the corn. They lived in log houses with mud chimneys and burned logs for fuel. Their light at night was made by burning pine knots in the fire place. Some made tallow candles which furnished light. They did all their cooking on the fire place. It took them most of a week to carry their farm products to market. They raised most all their food and made their clothes at home by hand.

Since their roads were poor, it was almost impossible to get away from home in the winter. The only way they had to travel was by foot or in an ox wagon. There were no newspapers and very few books. The nearest post office was several miles away. Mail came once or twice a month. One church served the community and all worshipped together.

The church also served as a school house for each summer. The children walked three or four miles to school and the same teacher taught all grades in one room. The seats were made of logs split open with pegs in the end for legs and no backs. The school hours were from 8 a. m. until 4 p. m. with lunches brought from homes packed in tin buckets. The buildings had no glass windows but had wooden shutters; so the room was very dark. With all these difficulties though the children enjoyed going to school. As people kept moving in the community grew to a good two teacher school with a lunch room added and good roads with buses to carry the children to and from school. The teacher's salary grew from \$25.00 a month to \$30.00 per month, then finally advanced to \$250.00 and \$300.00 per month for a nine months school.

HISTORY OF BEXAR

The little town of Bexar in Marion County (population 300) founded about 1830 and which claims to be one of the oldest Postoffices in that County, was named for the Alamo de la Bexar, scene of one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on the North American continent. Not great because of the

number of men engaged in it, at least on the Texas side, but because of its tragic ending-not one of the defenders of the Alamo surviving.

Several Marion County men were in the Alabama contingent of Alabamaians that joined the Texans in their fight for freedom and when the citizens of this Marion County village got down to the point of giving it an official name they called it Bexar.

The naming followed receipt of the news of the victory of Gen. Sam Houston and his army at San Jacinto, the christening party remembering that some of their neighbors and friends and members of their families, were with the doughty general whose victory at San Jacinto was the decisive battle in Texas' fight for freedom.

There were Alabamaians in the Alamo and San Jacinto battles and their friends and relatives back home "Remember the Alamo" and commemorated the event that gave rise to the famous battle cry.

Bexar is 110 miles northeast of Birmingham and situated in an agricultural section just outside the Warrior coal field. Nearby evidence of gas have been found, but prospectors have not been rewarded so far for their faith and investments.

HISTORY OF BEXAR POST OFFICE

Bexar Post Office claims to be one of the oldest in Marion County. Adequate statistics show it was established August 12, 1843. It is located in the extreme western part of the county, one and one-half miles from the Mississippi state line on highway number 78. It has two rural routes that serve the people of the community. At present, Route One is carried by Mr. Rex T. Shotts. This route is 57 miles long and serves 234 families. Route Two is now carried by Coen Lindsey. His route is 47 miles long and serves 149 families. Route Two serves many families in nearby Mississippi, Itawamba County.

Rural delivery was started in 1904, by horse and buggy. Mr. John Cofield was one of the first rural carriers. At first mail was delivered three times a week, and was very uncertain. Before this time, people called for their mail at the post office anytime they happened to pass by, and anyone delivered mail along the way. A few people still get their mail from the post office window.

National Archives and Record Service in Washington, D. C., shows that the first post office was established at Bexar, Marion County, on August 12, 1843. It was discontinued on July 18, 1866; re-established on July 12, 1872; discontinued on July 23, 1874; and re-established on September 23, 1874. Names of postmasters and dates of their appointments were: John Brown, August 12, 1843; Samuel A. Barnes, September 9, 1853; Lemuel B. Truelove, March 31, 1854; Willis W. Pearce, July

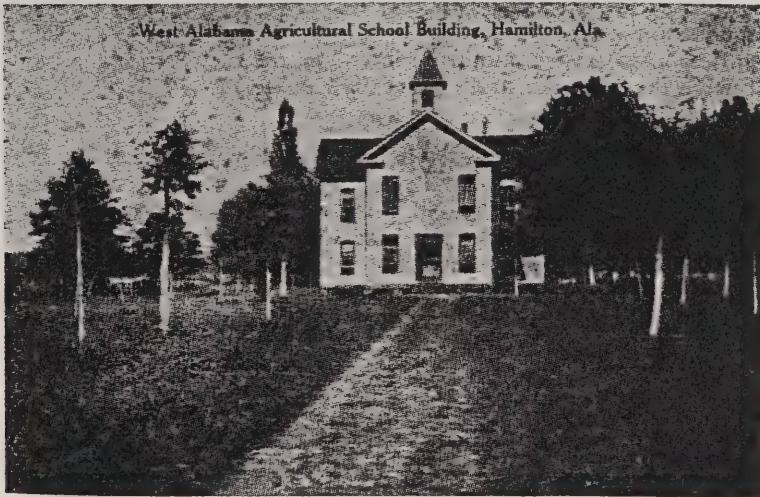
12, 1872; Marcus D. L. Spearman, February 26, 1883; Jesse D. Arnold, December 11, 1886; Merril W. Clayton, May 13, 1897; Pearce Goggans, May 2, 1905; Prince W. Cofield, March 31, 1953 (still serving).

Before Bexar became a permanent post office, mail was delivered at Bull Mountain, Shottsville, Cockrell and Savey. What is now Route 2 had two offices, one at Elkville and the other at Northington. Mail from these offices was carried by horseback. Mr. Jim Russ Emerson was one of the last carriers before these offices were discontinued.

Records show that Pearce R. Goggans, now retired, served the longest as postmaster at Bexar. He served a total of 48 years.

Mr. Prince Cofield, the present postmaster, has recently remodeled the post office inside, making it more modern and convenient.

EDUCATION



EARLY EDUCATION

In the early development of Marion County education took its place with industry. The early schools of the county usually had one or two teachers, and began in the early 1800's. Many of the school houses were built of logs with a large fire place in one end of the building. There were few if any windows. The seats for the pupils were benches or split logs with no backs. If a blackboard was used it was made by painting one end or side of the building with black wagon paint. Some had no floor except the hard packed soil. Many of the schools were taught in churches. These early schools usually ran for two months in the summer, when crops were laid by, and three months in the winter. The teachers were paid from fifteen to thirty dollars per month. Much of this was paid by public subscription. Thirty dollars was considered a high salary for a teacher. Teachers taught from 50 to 80 students in one room and the grades ranged from beginners through the seventh grade. One teacher reported that he had 32 recitations each day with 95 students. The older students sometimes helped in teaching the lower grades. The school day ran from eight in the morning to four in the afternoon. Most of the pupils enjoyed going to school and were eager to learn. Some of the early schools were: Thornhill, Smyrna, Shottsville, Bexar, Mt. Joy and Melville. Probably one of the first teachers institutes was held, Mr. John Arnold was superintendent, in 1887. The Marion County News of that date gives an account of the licensing of teachers. Applicants appeared personally to the superintendent and he gave them an oral examination. Their grade of certificate was based upon their aptness in answering his questions. This practice of certification of teachers continued until, about 1900, when the legislature passed a uniform written examination law. The main texts used were the Blue Back Speller and Davies Arithmetic. Later McGuffey's Readers were used.

Usually several institutes were held each year and teachers discussed current educational problems. Often at the close of the institute a debate was held. Some of the subjects of debate were: "How many angels could stand on the point of a needle," "Which comes first the hen or the egg," "If a cannon ball that could not be stopped hit a wall that could not be penetrated, what would happen," or "If a tree fell in an inaudible place, would it make a sound."

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HAMILTON AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

The act creating the District Agricultural Schools and Experiment Stations was passed by the Legislature in 1895. The citizens of Hamilton gave eighty acres of land for the school site and experiment station. They also gave the first buildings. The school was located in the summer of 1895 and opened its

doors for students the following October. Mr. W. C. Davis, then in the Legislature from this county, was largely responsible for the location of the school.

LOCATION

The West Alabama Agricultural School was located at Hamilton, the county site of Marion County. Hamilton is 13 miles from Guin and 15 miles from Hackleburg. It was reputed to be a "healthy site in a town free from saloons and other vices that tear down the morals of young men and women". It was said to have a "salabrious climate."

BUILDINGS

The first buildings consisted of a two story, eight room frame building for class rooms, a nine room dormitory, a barn and other necessary lot buildings. These were all situated in a beautiful 12 acre lot. The main school was burned in 1915 but the dormitory still stands and in the summer of 1929 was converted into a modern teachers home. The old barn and lot buildings were torn down in the summer of 1928 to make way for the new demonstration farm. In 1916, the main building was rebuilt of stuccoed brick. It cost about \$30,000.00 and contains 13 classrooms. It was well equipped and was one of the most outstanding high school buildings in the state at that time. In 1922, a vocational frame building was added to the rear of the main building and was well equipped with classrooms, for teaching wood and iron shop and modern agriculture.

FACULTIES

There are no available records of the faculties for a number of years but those that can be found are given below:

1896-97, James E. Alexander, A. W. Tate, Miss Elliot Key, Miss Ida Gray.

1897-98, S. T. Slaton, E. F. Cauthen, G. A. Holley, Miss Cora Guthrie, Mrs. Ida Guin, Miss Ada Gray, Mrs. C. P. Holley.

1898-99, G. T. Howerton, E. F. Cauthen, E. P. McElwrath, Mrs. Lula Bankhead.

1899-00, G. A. Holley, E. F. Cauthen, Miss Ida M. Bacon, Miss P. W. Pierce, Mrs. Ida Guin, Miss Kate Luttrell.

1901-02, E. F. Cauthen, E. B. Paul, Miss Eda M. Bacon, Miss P. W. Pearce, Miss Ida Guin, Miss Kate Luttrell, W. T. Draper, O. B. Newman.

1902-03, E. F. Cauthen, E. B. Paul, Miss Ida M. Bacon, Miss Lula Almon, Mrs. Ida Guin, W. T. Draper.

1904-05, E. F. Cauthen, James A. Duncam, Miss Ida M. Bacon, Miss Maggie Murray, Miss Mattie Simpson.

1906-07, H. O. Sargent, J. A. Johnson, Miss Lucile Flew-ellen, Mrs. Della Roberts, C. R. Franks, Miss Sara B. Phelps.

1911-12, H. O. Sargent, J. A. Johnson, Miss Ida M. Bacon, J. B. Hodges, Mrs. Mamie Davis.

1912-13, H. O. Sargent, R. B. Karr, Miss Ida M. Bacon, F. L. Jenkins.

1914-15, H. O. Sargent, R. B. Karr, Miss Ida M. Bacon, A. R. Gassendamer.

1915-16, H. O. Sargent, R. B. Karr, Miss Ida M. Bacon, T. F. Turner, Sanford Clark.

1917-18, J. R. Kimbrough, W. T. Clearman, Miss Mary Whitman, Miss Maysel Willingham, Miss Mary Ellen Gregg.

1919-20, J. R. Kimbrough, J. B. Rutkand, Dexter L. Hoverter, Miss Lena Lockhart, Miss Florence Exelle, Miss Arnice Hyatt.

1921-22, S. H. Gibbons, O. W. Collins, L. C. Smith, J. K. Bullock, Miss Jean Ford, Miss Edgar Ellen Wilson, Mrs. S. E. Woodward, Miss Lelie Ervin, Miss Marguret Miller, Miss Elizabeth Gipson.

1932-34, E. W. Branyon, J. L. McReynolds, J. W. Garrett, H. S. Strickland, Eliza Wilcox, Naomi Wilson, Fay Wooley, Alice Livingston, Jane Irvin, Martha Spain.

PRINCIPALS

For a number of years the West Alabama Agricultural School did two years of college work. At that time the principal was called president. The following is a list of principals or presidents, and how long they served and their present location:

James E. Alexander, 1896-97, Deceased.

S. T. Slaton, 1897-98, Birmingham, Deceased.

G. T. Howerton, 1898-99, Deceased.

G. A. Holley, 1899-1900, Maude, Oklahoma.

E. A. Cauthen, 1900-05, Auburn, Deceased.

H. O. Sargent, 1906-16, Washington, D. C. Deceased.

J. R. Kinbrough, 1917-20, Opelika, Alabama, Deceased.

S. H. Gibbons, 1920-22, Decatur, Alabama, Deceased.

J. B. Wilson, 1922-27, Auburn, Alabama.

E. W. Branyon, 1927-41, Hamilton.

Ross V. Ford, 1942, Deceased.

J. L. Sargent, 1943 to date, Hamilton.

SCHOOLS

The 1927 Legislature passed an act creating Demonstration Farms in connection with the Agricultural schools. Through the efforts of Mr. Earnest B. Fite this was secured for Hamilton. In March 1929, the Burleson Farm of 120 acres of good farm land was purchased and converted into a modern Demonstration Farm. The following new buildings were erected on this farm, superintendent's home, two tenant houses, seed house, large dairy and horse barn, machine sheds, poultry houses, and several other necessary buildings. The plant was furnished with running water from a well and a windmill on the site. It was used as a Demonstration Farm until 1940 when it was sold to private owners.

The district Agricultural School was built about 15 years before another high school in the county was erected. During this time all the students who did not live in Hamilton lived

in boarding houses. Many students came from the surrounding counties of Fayette, Lamar, Walker, Winston, and Franklin. Probably no school in the state has more distinguished graduates than the Hamilton School. They are found in all walks of life in this and other states. It is estimated that two thousand have graduated from this school.

This school was first called the Sixth District Agricultural School. In 1906 the name was changed to State Secondary Agricultural School. In 1937 the school was placed under county supervision and the name changed to the Hamilton High School. For 42 years the school had been under that supervision with very little local control.

SCHOOLS OF MARION COUNTY

Winfield

Mrs. Mattie Earnest, wife of the late Dr. Linwood Earnest, taught in the first school of the town under the principalship of a Mr. Garret. She began teaching in 1889 as Miss Mattie Wesson. One of her pupils was Jesse Couch. This first school was a plank building with one large room, that was built with funds raised by the citizens. John Windon was believed to be the next teacher in the same building until it burned in 1893. School was held in churches until early 1900. The third school building was built near the present Chiropractic Clinic and in this school Mrs. R. E. Moore, Sr., then Miss Jennie Lee Reese began her teaching career in Winfield in 1908. Mrs. O. W. Oden, then Miss Nona Ezzell began teaching in this same school in 1914.

This early grade school was a two-story building and C. R. Weldon was principal. C. D. Hughes and Mrs. Fannie Beeker were teachers.

Principal Weldon was instrumental in getting the building constructed which burned in 1951. The new and present one was built in 1951 and opened for use in August, 1952.

Mr. William Moore came to Winfield in 1923 and served as principal of the Elementary and High School for twelve years. The present Winfield High School was built in 1925, with Mr. Moore as the first principal and Miss Zora Ellis, a past A. E.A. President, taught in its first term.

Hackleburg Schools

The first school was held in a little log building of the Congregational Methodist Church. When the Methodist Church was built at Cedar Tree, the school was moved there. School was held there until a building was erected on the Boyd Place, near the present site of the high school and grammar school in 1913. This building was burned in 1921, and classes were taught in the various churches until the building was erected across the street from J. S. Walker's residence in 1923. This became the first high school for Hackleburg.

Brilliant Schools

John Jessie Gibbs was one of the early teachers and taught at Salem and Goldmine. Teachers were paid from twenty to twenty-five dollars per month and taught from 50 to 150 pupils from the first through the seventh grades. The first school was built by the Brilliant Coal Company in 1900 and was largely supported by this company. Some of the early teachers were: Florence Ezelle, Woodrow Berryhill, Jim McDonald, Mat Wesley, Curtis Webb, Mr. Friday, Mrs. J. T. Beeker, Mrs. Lester Carnes, Dock Stokes, Thomas Millican, and Jessie Couch. Principals were: Thomas Millican, Jessie Couch, C. P. Vick, Rev. L. G. Alverson, Mr. Campbell, Carnie Hughes, Clyde Horton, T. C. Bonds, and Otis Dickinson.

The old building was a two-story affair. It was burned in 1934 and a new building started. This has been added to through the years and today a modern building with vocational agriculture and home economics.

Byrd Schools

In the Byrd School Community one early school, not now in existence, was Mount Joy, a one-teacher school. This was in operation from about 1883-1908. About 1908 a new school building was erected on land given by Mr. John Real, and the name of the school changed from Mount Joy to Real School. Byrd School at that time was a two-teacher school. Another one-teacher school in the community was Watson School. In 1920 a tornado destroyed Byrd School house. In 1921 a new building was erected on land given by Mr. H. R. Riggs. The Red Cross gave \$5,000 to help finance the building with the understanding that Real and Watson Schools would consolidate with Byrd. This consolidation took place, and the new school opened with a large number of pupils and seven or eight teachers. The same building is still in use today, with the addition of an auditorium erected a few years ago.

Guin Schools

The early school of Guin was located just north of the present site of the Guin Baptist Church. It remained there for several years. Later the school was moved to its present location. About 1914 a two-story brick building was erected to take care of the elementary grades. Several years later a new building was erected. The old building was continued to be used for a few years. About 1948 the old building was torn down and additional classrooms were built to the present building.

The following have served as principal of the school: John W. McKenzie, Tilda Hughes, Jack Walker, Stella Stanford, Lonnie Smith, J. H. McKenzie, Jesse Couch, H. H. Watkins, Erskine Wygul, Mat Wesley, W. E. Dyar, Hubbard Estes.

A Mr. Wilkinson and a Mr. Tate also served as principal.

Mr. W. E. Dyar served as principal for 24 years, and did much for the improvement of the school.

The Marion County High School was erected in 1912. The building, situated on the north edge of town, had six classrooms, office, library, basement, and auditorium. The school owned 20 acres of land adjacent to the building which was utilized in agricultural and horticultural work. The land, building, and equipment was valued at about \$12,000.00.

Guin secured the County High School at a great expense. During Gov. Comer's administration (1912) an act was passed creating a county high school in each county of the state. After securing the location the people of Guin and the surrounding communities subscribed generously for the erection of the building. Since then four additional classrooms, an agriculture and home economics departments, and a gymnasium have been added to the school.

John B. Clark served as the school's first principal from 1912-1917. Since then the following have served as principal of the school: Mr. Dellarue, Mr. Young, Dexter L. Hovater, J. L. Bryan, R. E. Moore, O. E. Earnest, E. M. Smith, W. W. Hester, J. C. Mattox, Asa Estes, Grady Elmore, W. W. Hester.

ATHLETICS

The first football team in Marion County was that of the Sixth District Agricultural School at Hamilton, in 1913. Judge R. B. Carr was the first coach, and Dr. H. O. Sargent, principal. Many of the boys had never seen a football game and none had ever played. The team was made up of "Boys fresh from the farms in northwest Alabama. They had learned hard work, discipline and self sacrifice," said the coach. The first game was with the Florence Normal School at Florence. They went on a wagon to Hackleburg, caught a train to Haleyville and changed to the Northern Alabama to Sheffield, where they again changed to the trolley for Florence. The Hamilton boys had not learned the signals and did not know how to make a touchdown. The game resulted in a score of 60 to 0 for Florence.

At that time very few schools played football and games were hard to get and finance. However they scheduled games with Auburn and Birmingham Southern. The game at Auburn was played on Saturday afternoon and the one at Birmingham on the following Monday. The second year Hamilton won over Florence, Bluntsville and several other games. Some of the players on the first teams were: Cole Savage, Vassie Frederick, Auther Lauderdale, Sam Elliot, Frank Farris, Harley Smith, Bill Stokes, Marvin Pearce, Dexter, Walter and Arthur Horarter, Emitt Sizemore, John Shirley, Jim and Clark Pearce. The latter played in the Rose Bowl for the University of Alabama.

Guin was the second school in the county to have a team. They were the undefeated champions in 1914. Some of the players on this team were Billy Baccus, Doc Wright, Coleman, Alvis Miller, Jim Davidson, Vivian Cantrell, Louis Dickinson, Oscar Green, Walter Atkins, Red Pope, Hewett Pearce, and George Pearce.

The rivalry between Guin and Hamilton was very keen, since the principals of the two school were brother-in-laws, Dr. H. O. Sargent, and Dr. John Clark.

Down through the years interest in football increased and as soon as a new high school was established a new football team came into existence. Today all six of the high schools of the county have football teams, on lighted fields. Most of them have electric score boards, loud speakers, bands, and the other innovations of the colleges. On some occasions several thousand people attend one or more games.

Basketball is also a favorite sport and all the high schools have indoor gymnasiums in which to play the games. Baseball was once the main sport but it has declined to third place in the competitive sports.

Each community has raised enough money to build a splendid football stadium through local effort. The estimated cost of these are: Hamilton — \$8,000, Guin — \$3,000, Winfield — \$12,000, Hackleburg — \$5,000, Brilliant — \$3,000, Bear Creek — \$3,000.

SCHOOLS IN 1958

There are six high schools in the county and they are located at Hamilton, Guin, Winfield, Brilliant, Hackleburg, and Bear Creek. Four junior high schools are located in the county at Byrd, Gravel Springs, Wiginton, and Buttahatchee.

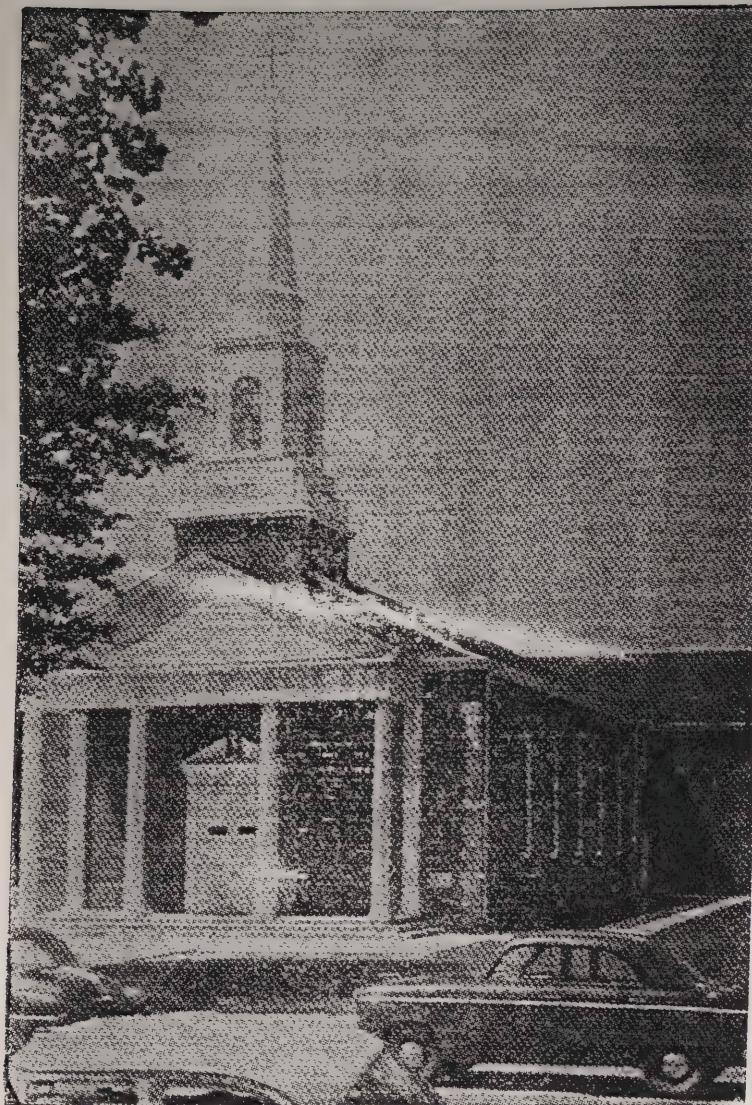
The 16 elementary schools are located at: Sunnyside, Shiloh, New Home, Craft, Old Union, Burlason, Sunny Home, Mt. Olive, Liberty, Brookside, Sugar Bend, and one at each of the junior high and senior high school centers. There are also 2 colored schools located at Guin and Ada Hanna with an enrollment of 196. The total enrollment of the white schools is 4903. (This does not include Winfield as it has an independent school district.)

One hundred and seventy five teachers are employed in the county system. Fourteen have M.A. Degrees, 99 B.S. Degrees and 62 with less training (Winfield not included).

The county operates 65 school buses and transports 4832 children. (Including Winfield). There are 15 lunchrooms and 7 veterans training teachers

School bus transportation was started in the county in 1927 when T. D. Brooks was Superintendent. In 1942 the county purchased 60 school buses and built a bus shop at a cost of about \$150,000. E. W. Branyon was Superintendent at that time.

CHURCHES



First Baptist Church
Hamilton, Alabama

EARLY CHURCHES

Hamilton

Prior to the Civil War the few Methodist in Toll Gate worshipped at Old Pleasant Ridge Church, two miles north of the town. During these years P. K. Brindley, Largus Bell, and Elbert Norton were the pastors. Lebenton Church was organized in 1867. Charter members were: Alexander Huey and wife, Dr. M. H. Key and Family, W. B. Owens and Family, Roben Belk and Family, Nancy Cashion, R. W. Clark, Thomas Carpenter and Family and Miss Della Key. The Methodist Church was moved to Hamilton in 1884.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1896. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. J. Ramey, James Harrison and Family, E. J. Grey and Family, A. J. Thomas and Family, and Stege Wilson and wife. The pastors of the Baptist Church have been: R. W. Clark, Terry Johnson, W. A. Darden, A. C. Green, E. G. Finn, A. J. Darling, A. L. Mays, W. C. Kirk, S. S. Hacker, Rev. Goodwin, A. M. Nix, J. A. Hill, P. F. McGuire, Lee Franklin.

The Church of Christ was organized in Hamilton in 1903. The court house was used for services until 1907 at which time the first building was erected. Charter members were: I. O. Guin and wife, Henry Harris and wife. Henry Harris was the first pastor.

Winfield

In 1860 John S. Wheeler moved from Georgia and established a church known as Wheelers Chapel. The Methodist worshipped there until 1900 when it was moved to Winfield. E. H. Price was the first pastor. Some of the other pastors have been: John L. Williams, D. W. Ward, Charles Woolford, L. D. Parish, J. E. Morris, W. E. Draper, W. T. Hendon, E. B. Redus, W. R. Beale, J. M. Davidson, R. F. Mapes, W. W. McCarn, C. C. Turner, J. W. McBrayer, P. C. Oliver, C. L. Ellis, Marvin Swellings, W. T. Holdridge, A. C. Blackburn, W. W. Lovett, A. D. Montgomery, and Henry G. Grey.

Some of the charter members of the Methodist Church were the following: John W. Brassel and wife, S. W. Bishop and wife, Bill Aston and wife, Dr. J. M. Whitley and wife, Mrs. Minerva Aston, Andrew Webster, Mrs. Hargarett Musgrove, Mrs. Ann White, Mrs. Mary Smith, and Mrs. Clara Aston.

In 1895 Elisha Vickery donated the land where the Church of Christ building now stands. An old store building was converted into the first church and C. A. Wheeler held the first meeting in the church.

The charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Vickery and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith and son, Mrs. Caroline McCollum and Children.

Some of the earliest pastors and evangelists were: G. A. Dunn, Sr., John Allen Hudson, William Loyd, Chester Estes, C. R. Nichols, A. G. Freed, John T. Lewis, Hohn D. Cox, John O. Dowd, N. B. Hardiman, John McCluskey, Jimmie Faulkner, W. S. Thompson, C. A. Posey, Ferris Havard, Marshall Myers. The church has now grown to over 250 members.

Hackleburg

The first church was the Congregational Methodist, housed in a little log building about one mile south of the town. Some of the members were, W. W. Frederick, John Coleman, and B. P. Cantrell. They came out of this church and organized the Methodist Church South. The building for this church was erected in town in 1889. Because of some large cedar trees the church was called the Cedar Tree Methodist Church.

The Baptist Church was organized July 5, 1908. Some of the charter members were: J. M. Conden and family, J. L. Vandiver and family and W. J. Bryan and family.

The Church of Christ was organized about 1912 and the Church of God about 1920.

Guin

The Guin Methodist Church was organized on February 22, 1890 with 14 members. Rev. D. A. Love of the Beaverton Mission was the first pastor. It was organized at the home of Orse Silas. The charter members were Watson Brown, S. R. Guin, Jim Hughes, S. C. Lowe, R. T. Lowe, Minoree Northcut, Mary Ellen Brown, Mrs. O. E. Hughes, Nancy Guin, I. R. Free, Amanda Free, and Agnes Pearce. The names of the other two are not given. A wooden building was the first built and served until 1927 when the present building was erected. In 1937 a beautiful parsonage was built.

Pleasant Ridge

After the Civil War the Methodist moved from Pleasant Ridge to Toll Gate. The Free Will Baptist moved in and took over this place of worship. They built a new building and worshiped there for 15 years when the building was blown away by a cyclone. Another new building was erected and was used until 1937 when the present church was erected.

The first pastors were L. L. Nichols, and James Buckham of Horse Creek. Other pastors have been J. G. Boyett, V. L. Puckett, I. K. Boyett, C. R. Puckett, Hudson Burlason, and Jim Howell.

The charter members were: L. L. Nichols, Smith Parker, Mattie Parker, Clementine Belk, E. M. Belk, Josh Littleton, Lafayette Palmer, Sallie White, J. B. Peterson, Nancy Nichols, Cinda Nichols and Ashitliee Winsett. The church now has over 200 members.

Hepsiba

This is said to be the oldest church in the county. The Rev. Bob Duncan preached a sermon there on its 105 anniversary in 1908. The church was torn down several years ago and the members moved to other churches.

This church belonged to the Liberty Association of the Original Order of Baptist. The two other churches in this county belonging to this association were: Lovejoy and Mount Joy. Other churches of this association in Mississippi were: Marietta, New Ramah, and Ebinezar. Those in Franklin County were Zions Rest and Bates Hill.

The following are some of those who preached and served as pastors at Hepsiba: Henry Clark, Bud Still, James Sumner, Wesley Stidham, John Carter, Eli Frederick, Oscar Hester, George Stidham, John Green, and R. C. Duncan.

Shottsville Methodist Church

The first Shottsville church was made from hewn logs. The roof was of cypress boards and wooden pegs were used for nails. It was located about two miles north of the present location and was called New Bethel. It was about twenty-four feet by twenty-four feet with a door on each side. Church services and school were held in the same building. The building was erected sometime around 1840. In 1836 the Reeds and Stones moved here from South Carolina. John Stone may have been the first member. Early residents were the Emersons, Robinsons and Shotts. They came from Lawrence County and settled along Bull Mountain. The preacher was a circuit rider who preached at different churches every day. John Arnold was a local preacher who marked everyone off the church roll who had folks who went north after the Civil War. John Cowden was the preacher around 1892 and stayed in Hamilton. Samuel Reed was an early Class Leader.

The Shottsville Cemetery was started in 1840 with the grave of John Stone's little daughter. His wife was buried there in 1846. There are over 400 graves now. Around 1875 or 1880 the church was moved to its present location beside the cemetery. It was a frame house. The people came to church in covered wagons drawn by steers. Some came from a long way for the Saturday night service and would spend the night in their wagons to be there for the Sunday service. Later many traveled by horseback. The ladies had side saddles and riding skirts. There were places at the church to tie the horses and blocks from which to mount.

In 1908, a shingled, two-story house was built. It also served as a school and an Odd Fellows Lodge. It was destroyed by fire, and in 1936 the church was built by Rev. Hancock that served until the present building was erected.

The first parsonage was bought from the Holly Palmer family and was not located at the present site. The first parsonage was built by Rev. Levie and the present one by Rev. Jones, near Gravel Springs School.

Before the '20's John Reed carried their eating table two miles to church to be used for a Communion Table.

During the pastorate of Rev. Dan W. Akins, the building built by Rev. Hancock was torn down and construction on the new building begun. Services were held in the old school across the road until the new building was ready. The present building has a lovely sanctuary and a full size basement that has three church school rooms and a fellowship hall. It was dedicated August 19, 1956 by Bishop Clare Purcell.

Shiloh Baptist Church

The group of pioneer citizens of Shiloh Community were from Georgia and South Carolina. They brought their church letters from Reed Creek in Hart County, Georgia and Andersonville in Anderson, South Carolina. R. V. Dyar was the leader in the organization of Shiloh Baptist Church.

This group of men and women met in the Godsey log school-house September 3, 1901 to organize Shiloh Baptist Church. Shiloh is located nine miles north of Hamilton in Marion County. The following charter members were enrolled: G. W. Palmer, Susie Palmer, J. S. Evans, Lou Evans, Roxie Harper, and C. C. Terry from Reed Creek Baptist Church in Hart County, Georgia. Nettie Dyar, Janie Dyar, and Lucie Feltman from Andersonville Baptist Church in South Carolina.

At their first meeting R. V. Dyar was received by letter and as a deacon. Rev. A. A. Gay was called as pastor and R. V. Dyar was elected clerk. The name chosen was Shiloh. Delegates elected for the Association were R. V. Dyar, G. W. Palmer and J. S. Evans. They met with the Yellow Creek Association.

The Church Covenant and Articles of Faith were written. Rules of Decorum were established. These Articles and Rules were read to the church in conference at least once a year.

Services were held regularly, each month, in the little log school-house. Members met on Saturdays for conference, to attend to all business, and for the reception of new members. All members were to live up to Christian standards or be excluded. One requirement was to attend services and conference or have a legal excuse. In the summer revival services were held in a brush arbor.

G. W. Palmer and John T. Harper gave the land to build the first church building. The one room church was built in 1903 and 1904. This building was used for thirty years. In 1934 and 1935 a better and larger wood building was built with six class rooms. People in the church and community

donated material and labor. People were contacted to give money needed.

The Church adopted a budget system of financing under the leadership of Rev. A. M. Nix. In 1945 five hundred dollars was set aside as a building fund. During the years of 1946-1950 several people planted an acre of cotton and gave to this building fund. The church land was planted and worked by free labor. On December 17, 1950, the ground breaking service for the present brick building was conducted. Two charter members were living and one was present at this meeting. Dedication services were conducted May 13, 1951. Laying the corner stone was March 2, 1952. This brick building, with gas heat, has nine class rooms for the teaching services.

Sunday School was part of the services in the log school-house in 1901. In 1934 the Cradle Roll and Home Department were added to the Sunday School. Training Union for the Young People was as early as 1924. In 1934 the Woman's Missionary Union was organized. In 1945 Shiloh held its first Vacation Bible School by the help of a state worker. Each year since then a Vacation Bible School has been held.

The cemetery at Shiloh has a history of its own. W. S. Godsey gave the land where the log school house stood for the cemetery. Later Elbert Harper gave more land to straighten the lines. The first recorded grave was 1901. Two graves were there before the church was organized. The Church grounds and cemetery have a good sod and is mowed regularly as a part of the church duties.

GOVERNMENT



Marion County Court House



MARION COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Hamilton, Alabama

CHARLES H. MCCUTCHEON
ARCHITECT

GOVERNMENT IN MARION COUNTY

The Act of Creation for Marion County by an Act of the Alabama Territorial Legislature designated "The Cotton Gin Port" as the site of the temporary seat of Justice. By act approved December 16, 1819, the temporary seat of justice was placed at the house of Henry Grier, in the Buttahatchee Community. The permanent site selected in 1820 was Pikeville which was incorporated by act January 12, 1827. During the 62 years while Pikeville was the County seat, there were two or more courthouses built. Pikeville was long a place of some importance, but after the removal of the courthouse to Toll Gate (now Hamilton) about 1883, it declined and died and is now one of the historic "ghost towns" of Alabama.

In 1818 William Ragsdale became the first Probate Judge. According to available records, the following have served Marion County as Probate Judges:

Name	Time served
John D. Terrell, Jr.	— Elected 1829 served 45 years.
John Pope	— Completed Judge Terrell's term, 3 years.
Walter H. Matthews	— Elected in 1886
Jason P. Ford	— Elected in 1892
William R. White	— Elected in 1898
Mack Pearce	— Elected in 1904
H. V. Bostic	— Elected in 1916
William H. Cantrell	— Elected in 1922 (Grandson of John D. Terrell, Jr.)
Roy Sanderson	— Elected 1934 (Resigned November 15, 1945)
Angus Berryhill	— Appointed to complete term of Sanderson
George W. Pearce	— Elected in 1946. Died March, 1947.
R. R. Wright	— Appointed to serve until election.
Frank Pearce	— Elected in 1948.

The Marion County Court house burned on March 30, 1887, destroying many records of historic value.

Among the duties of the Justice of the Peace was that of issuing Land Grants, which later became the duty of the Probate Judge.

Marion County is now governed by a Board of Revenue. This Board is composed of five members, one of whom is elected as chairman. The term of office of each member is four years.

Delegates to Constitutional Conventions:

- 1819 — John D. Terrell, Sr.
- 1861 — Lang C. Allen and W. Stidham
- 1865 — J. F. Morton and G. M. Haley
- 1875 — Thomas D. Nemith and M. T. Akers
- 1901 — James P. Pearce

State Representatives from Marion County are as follows:
(Time and Name)

1819 — Sila McBee, 1820 — James Moore, 1821 — Lemuel Boone, 1822 — John D. Terrell, Sr., 1823 — J. Moore, 1825 — George White, 1826 — William H. Duke, 1828 — James Metcalf, 1829 — Lefayette Royden and James Metcalf, 1830 — Thadeus Walker and James Metcalf, 1831 — Thadeus Walker and D. U. Hollis, 1833 — George Brown and D. U. Hollis, 1835 — Hiram C. May, 1836 — Joshua Gann, 1838 — D. U. Hollis, 1839 — Thomas C. Moore, 1841 — Joshua Burleson.

1842 — Leroy Kennedy, 1843 — John L. McCarty, 1844 — Leroy Kennedy, 1845 — Woodson Northcut, 1847 — Thadeus Walker, 1849 — Woodson Northcut, 1851 — Kimbrough T. Brown, 1853 — William A. Musgrove, 1855 — Kimbrough T. Brown and Leroy Kennedy, 1859 — Kimbrough Brown and William A. Musgrove, 1861 — M. L. Davis and J. W. Logan, 1863 — M. L. Davis and D. U. Hollis, 1865 — John H. Bankhead and Winston Stidham, 1868 — G. W. Haley, 1870 — A. J. Hamilton, 1876 — William Tillmon Bishop, 1878 — M. T. Akers.

1880 — J. T. Camp, 1882 — J. C. Young, 1884 — K. T. Brown, 1887 — W. W. White, 1888 — H. T. Clark, 1890 — J. T. Young, 1892 — H. T. Clark, 1894 — W. C. Davis, 1900 — G. W. Maxwell, 1903 — C. P. Almon, 1907 — C. E. Mitchell, 1911 — W. P. Letson, 1915 — E. B. Fite, 1919 — Walker W. Hall succeeded by E. B. Fite, 1923 — E. B. Fite, 1927 — W. P. Letson, 1931 — E. B. Fite, 1935 — Dr. R. L. Hill, 1939 — Dr. R. L. Hill, 1943 — E. B. Fite, 1947 — R. R. Wright and W. E. Dyar, 1951 — Rankin Fite, 1955 — Rankin Fite (speaker house), 1959 — John T. Self.

State Senators from Marion County:

1819 — John D. Terrell, Jr., 1823 — William Metcalf, 1825 — Jessie Vanhoose, 1827 — Rufus Moore, 1829 — Rufus K. Anderson, 1834 — Henry Burrow, 1837 — Burrow W. Wilson, 1843 — Elijah Marchbanks, 1847 — Daniel Coggin, 1850 — Elliot P. Jones, 1861 — A. J. Coleman, 1865 — F. P. Jones, 1868 — J. J. Hinds, 1872 — W. H. Edwards, 1876 — J. H. Bankhead, 1878 — W. A. Musgrove, 1882 — A. L. Moorman, 1886 — George C. Almon, 1890 — R. L. Bradley, 1892 — E. B. Alson, 1896 — Walter H. Matthews, 1900 — W. L. Bullock, 1907 — G. T. McWhorter, 1911 — E. B. Fite, 1915 — W. H. Key, 1919 — Riley Kelly, After 1920 — J. P. Middleton, W. B. Mixon, Rankin Fite, Hugh Moses.

COUNTY OFFICERS

No available records could be found that gave the names of many of the county officers. Those obtained are as follows:

Sheriff:

Walker Hall, Pompy Riggins, Rufe Baird, Luther Loyd (two terms), Hohn Haney, Jim Ford, Houston Couch (three terms),

Golden Howell, Angus Berryhill, Max Cantrell, Dewy Loyd, Fray Tyra, Hubert McCarley.

Circuit Clerks:

W. H. Cantrell, 1919-23; Roy Sanderson, 1923-35; J. D. Sexton, 1935-41; Banks Carpenter, 1941-53; Lex Fikes, 1953-59.

County Superintendent of Education:

P. P. Clanton, E. Vickery, R. S. Bottoms, Mr. Arnold, W. A. Dunn, C. E. Mitchell, Dave Bolin, W. H. McKenzie, J. H. Couch, T. D. Brooks, Ross Ford, E. W. Branyon, Solon Gregg.

Tax Assessors:

Timothy Bishop, Jim Northan, Bill Robinson, C. R. Franks, Tom Farris, Victor White, Frank Pearce, Z. E. Watson.

Tax Collectors:

N. R. Akers, W. R. Loden, B. M. Cantrell, W. T. Burlason, H. V. Bostick, J. M. Hightower, Clyde Nix, George Pearce, Hoyt Pearce.

Lawyers:

Before 1890 the lawyers were: W. H. Key, W. W. Callahan, Judge John C. Anderson, A. J. Stanford, and B. R. Fite. After 1900 they were: Charles Allmon, W. C. Davis, C. E. Mitchell, A. F. Fite, G. A. Holley, Earnest Fite, W. B. Ford, Fred Jones, J. C. Middleton, and I. R. Hobbs. B. R. Fite hung up a record in the legal circles in Alabama as four of his sons were lawyers: namely A. F. Fite, Earnest Fite, Kelley Fite, and Fred Fite. The lawyers in 1957 were: Earnest Rankin Fite, Bill Fite, Nelson Vinson, Edward P. Fowler, and John Self.

Congressmen of the Seventh Congressional District:

The Seventh Congressional District is made up of the following counties: Franklin, Marion, Winston, Cullman, Blount, Walker, Fayette, Lamar, and Pickens. These counties have composed this district since 1930.

Since its creation Marion County has been in several Congressional Districts. From 1823 to 1833 it was in the Northern or Middle District. From 1833 to 1841 it was in the Third District, from 1841 to 1843, in the State at Large, from 1843 to 1861 in the Fifth District. During the Civil War period and reconstruction, 1861 to 1869, it had no representative in the National Congress. It was in the Sixth District from 1869 to 1917, the Tenth District from 1917 to 1930, from 1930 to the present time it has been in the Seventh District.

From the time of admission as a state until 1823, Alabama had only one representative. He was John Crowell and he was succeeded by Gabriel Moore.

1823 to 1829 John McKee, Northern District
Gabriel Moore, Middle District

1829 to 1831 Robert E. B. Baylor, Northern District
Clement C. Clay (Middle District)
1831 to 1833 Clement C. Clay (Northern District)
Dixon H. Lewis (Middle District)
1833 to 1835 John McKinley (Third District)
1835 to 1837 Jacob Lawler
1837 to 1839 Jacob Lawler and George W. Crabb
1839 to 1841 George W. Crabb
1841 to 1843 Five elected by state at large
George S. Houston
Benjamin G. Shields
Dixon H. Lewis
William W. Payne
Ruben Chapman
1843 to 1849 George S. Houston (Fifth District)
1849 to 1851 David Hubbard
1851 to 1861 George S. Houston
1861 to 1869 Vacant (Civil War Period)
1869 to 1871 William C. Sherrod (Sixth District)
1871 to 1875 Joseph H. Sloss
1875 to 1879 Goldsmith W. Hewitt
1879 to 1881 Burwell B. Lewis and Newton N. Clements
1881 to 1885 Goldsmith W. Hewitt
1885 to 1887 John M. Martin
1887 to 1907 John H. Bankhead
1907 to 1915 Richmond P. Hopson
1915 to 1917 William B. Oliver (Tenth District)
1917 to 1941 William B. Bankhead (1930 the Seventh District)
Z. L. Weatherford filled unexpired term of
William Bankhead
1941 to 1943 Walter B. Bankhead and Carter Manasco
1943 to 1949 Carter Manasco
1949 to present Carl Elliot

WARS

MARION COUNTY IN THE WARS

The state convention met in Montgomery in 1860 to decide about secession. Marion County was represented by Alex Underwood, L. C. Allen and Stidham. They went to Montgomery with Christopher Sheets from Winston County. He was violently opposed to secession and tried to get Marion County representatives to vote with him against secession. However, they finally voted with the majority to secede.

Woodruf Miles was in charge of raising an army in Fayette and Marion Counties to help defend Winston County against the Confederacy. Al Gipson and Hamp Carpenter were in charge of raising troops for the Confederacy.

Two Confederate prisons were built in the eastern part of the county. Sanford Prison was located on the upper part of Buttahatchee River and Fort Mitchell was located near by. These prisons were made of logs and had no windows and only one door. The tories raided Fort Mitchell and took Al Gipson away and killed him.

Green Holley freed his slaves after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and Alex Underwood sold his before that time.

Joe Weatherford and Prentis Terrell, son of Judge Terrell, were the first ones to be killed from this county in the defense of the Confederacy. Later Josh Phillips was sent to take the body of Morse Pace to Allens Factory (Bear Creek) for burial. Burrell Howell made bond for John Phillips to get him out of prison.

George Stuart was a ruthless leader of the Tories and made many raids on Pikeville and Toll Gate. Ham Carpenter was the leader of the secessionist in the county and people were afraid to declare their loyalty to either side for fear they would be burned out or murdered.

John Mitchell's wife was driven into the snow and died from exposure near Hamilton, and he came from the Federal Army in Memphis to help capture Ham Carpenter. Tradition has it that Ham Carpenter was captured tied by his feet, and hung over White Rock by a rope. His head almost touched the ground. A fire was built under him and he was burned to death in this manner.

Dr. Mangram, a Hamilton physician, was supposed to have informed on the location of some Tories. He was called out to see a supposedly sick patient was waylaid and shot by the Tories. Some say this was on the road to Bexar and some say it was near Military Ford. John Mitchell is supposed to have killed him.

Since the county was raising armies for both the North and the South guerilla warfare was carried on and many killings and horrible crimes were committed in this area.

Other Wars

The latest statistical data that we have indicates that there is a total of 3060 veterans in Marion County. Of these 2000 are World War II veterans, 900 Korean veterans, and 360 veterans of World War I and the Spanish American War. Of the 900 Korean veterans, 200 also served in World War II.

The following killed or died in service in World War I from Marion County: Robert E. Sullens, Hackleburg; Henry Avery, Hamilton; Willie Dodd, Winfield; Neil Ford, Hamilton; John H. Free, Winfield; James L. Mahan, Hamilton; William J. Posey, Winfield; James T. Riley, Guin; George Sanderson, Guin; Merida Shirey, Guin; Clyde R. Smith, Winfield; Wilburn C. Thacker, Winfield; James A. Tilley, Winfield; Fred White, Winfield; Victor Lochridge, Bexar (colored).

Killed or died in Navy in World War II: Alfred C. Barnett, Brilliant; Ralph C. Bookout, Guin; Walter DeFoor, Phil Campbell; Nathaniel Evans, Winfield; Rexford Goggans, Hamilton; Lenza Howell, Hackleburg; Donald Langston, Hackleburg; J. C. McGuire, Hamilton; Emitt Ray Riley, Winfield; S. B. Shotts, Vina; William E. Stovall, Hamilton; Hugh Wiginton, Hamilton; John Angus Williams, Brilliant; Redus O. Woodham, Winfield; Don Edward Taylor, Winfield. (Casualty Section, Office Public Information, Washington, D. C.)

Killed or died in service in Army in World War II from Marion County. No address was given:

John W. Aldridge, Allen Anderson, Claude Anderson, William T. Boseman, Chloris E. Bradberry, Nitchel H. Burleson, Robert B. Burlason, Ross Britton, Jr., Lenard H. Campbell, Gaither Cantrell, Noel H. Chancellor, David W. Clay, Eddie Cochran, Borden T. Cook, Mack D. Cockren, Leonard M. Crow, Dorris D. Dill, James E. Earnest, Charlie M. Ellis, Milton P. Emerson, John C. Estes, Charles W. Evans, Kelly V. Fite, Jr.

Arelious E. Franks, Henry O. Gilliland, Lovorn H. Hagan, Edwin S. Hall, James E. Harris, John W. Harris, James W. Holcomb, Foy L. Holcomb, A. J. Holley, Millard Howell, John J. Houk, Connie E. Kerr, James H. King, Craty A. Langson, James C. Lloyd, Otto Lovett.

Donald C. May, George A. May, Floyd A. Mayfield, Edgar W. McCauley, Robert L. McDonald, Dalton C. Millican, James W. Morrow, Hogan D. Moses, Odes Nelson, Neol N. Nichols, Raymond D. Norris, Willis L. Northam, George C. Osborn, Jr., Lowell V. Ozbirn, Seburn Perry, Thomas L. Phillips, Victor H. Pearce, Noah C. Pollard, Steve Poore, Otis T. Pope, William E. Prescott, Garvis Riggan, Aaron W. Robins.

John H. Robinson, Virgle Satterwhite, Curtis Sexton, Stone Shots, Handley C. Thigpen, Jr., John H. Trimm, Kenneth

Thompson, Edmond L. Turner, Millard M. Vaughn, John C. Vinson, Cyril E. Voce, J. D. Watkins, Robert D. Wiginton, Terry Wilson, Berry Young.

(War Department Bureau Public Relations, Washington, D.C.)

Korean War

In the Korean War Hamilton sent its National Guard Unit of 132 officers and men. They stayed one year and all returned safely. There were 8 sets of brothers in this outfit. It was the 252 Transport and Truck Company of the National Guard commanded by Major J. T. Brumley. No records are available as to casualties in this war.

RECORD J. W. LANN IN THE CIVIL WAR

(From Old Letters Enlistment and Description)

J. W. Lann, private, eyes grey, hair light, complexion tan, height five feet and six inches, from Marion County, Alabama. Enlisted September 19, 1861, at Iuka, Mississippi, for twelve months. Paymaster Captain Blunt. First paid October 30, 1861. Paid \$27.08. Due \$153.92. Station Camp Sloan near Abbeville, Mississippi, November 29, 1862.

M. Pound, Captain
Co. B. 1st Miss. Regiment

Service

J. W. Lann was captured by the Federals on 19 day of May, 1865 at Fort Strode near Vicksburg. On 21 went to a fort near Chickasaw Bayou and went to the Young Point, near Vicksburg. Stayed at the Point until May 24. On May 25 left at four o'clock on the Ohio Bell. Got to Memphis on the boat on May 28. On the 29, lay at Memphis all day until four o'clock and starts up the river May 31, going north. Big hail storm. Got to Caro on June 1, On June 2, started on the cars for Indianapolis. Got to the Camp at Indianapolis on June 3. Very cold. Left Indianapolis on June 7 for Fort Deleware. Stayed there until July 4. Left for Delaware on a boat. The remainder was not legible.

Discharge

J. W. Lann, Sergeant, Company E. Eight Regiment, Alabama Cavalry, C.I.A., residing in Marion County, having been with the approval of the proper authorities paroled. Is permitted to return to his home, not to be discharged by U. S. authorities, so long as he observes his parole and the laws in force where he may reside.

J. H. Bankhead, Captain
10 Alabama Infantry

Signed
Brig. Gen. R. S. Eranyes
W. W. Fernbank, Col. 15. Ind. Infantry

Oath Allegiance

State Alabama, Marion County

I, J. W. Lann, do solemnly swear that I will henceforth fully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the union of the states thereunder, and that I will in a like manner abide by and support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God. Subscribed and sworn before me the first day of August, 1865.

William Canlee, Witness

J. W. Lann.

SLAVE CENSUS OF 1850 FOR MARION

SCHEDULE 2. Slave Inhabitants in District No. 12 in the County of Marion State
of Mo., enumerated by me, on the 15th day of December 1850. *M. H. Allen* *Ass't Marshal*

Owner	No. Slaves	Owner	No. Slaves
Lidia B. Terrell	7	Humphrey Roberts	2
Bosh Clark	6	Levi Mattox	7
James Glascock	8	Salome Smith	1
Isper Clark	1	Ione Bankhead	11
John Rowsom	6	William Strawbridge	1
John Brown	2	Browson Hollis	3
John Spears	21	Jonathan Hollis	7
L. B. Trulove	5	John Hollis	15
G. B. Carty	1	Richmond Garrett	3
Mat Brown	3	Pinkney Southern	2
John Tucker	6	Daniel Holloway, Jr.	1
R. Atkins	1	William Alexander	3
W. A. Byrd	1	Daniel Hollis	30
William Dunn	1	Aaron Pennington	1
E. B. Cody	1	William E. Trotter	8
Sandy B. Riggins	10	Nancy Holloway	3
Benjiman Riggins	4	George Good	12
Robert Aston	1	George Sanford	1
Peterson Loyd	9	Thomas Wood	2
Bennett Moll	1	William Sizemore	1
Hugh Reed	4	William Johnson	9
Riley Perry	4	Absolum Martin	1
Thadus Walker, Sr.	11	Daniel Holliday	8
Mary McMinn	2	John Holliday	4
George Brown	16	Theo W. Guyton	7
George Tucker	2	Darling Hollis	8
Thomas Tucker	31	D. A. Johnson	8
Frederick White	2	John Guyton	1
Thadius Walker, Jr.	3	William B. Stephens	1
Milla Tucker	1	William Armstrong	1
Suke Spruell	10	M. A. Price	20
Ima Spruell	1	I. B. and A. K. Metcalf	2
Elizabeth Allen	3	I. E. Trotter	6
Ima G. McKenig	1	W. B. Hall	4
Thomas Evans	11	John Pope	1
Basell Dorsey	1	Samuel Mixon	1
James G. Young	2	Rebecca Waid	1
B. Weston	1	John Lochridge	6
Gabrel Patrick	8	George Henster	5
Isaac Cooper	3	P. S. Belk	1
William Nolon	3	Dr. D. F. Belk	1
J. B. Marchbank	5	Archiball Morrison	1
Noble Terry	1	John Vorters	1
John S. Griffin	2	Burnell Howell	1
James F. Guyton	2	F. H. Stewart	2
Richard Terry	1	S. S. Adams	4
James G. Bankhead	17	Aaron Burlason	1
John Bankhead	21	Lucy Omish	1
Mary Garrett	18	Caroline Burlason	1
B. C. Clark	4	John A. Miles	1
Amos Cooper	9	Daniel McKinley	1
O. B. Morehead	3	H. K. Burlason	1
W. B. Bradley	13	Davis Burlason	1
John D. Terrell	1	Grover M. Haley	2
William Clark	1	Daniel Stanford	1
William Cantrell	9	Alexander Underwood	17
Alpha Neal	3	Patricia Kemp	1

Owner	No. Slaves	Owner	No. Slaves
Isaac Henson	8	A. I. Houston	1
William Crump	11	E. G. Terrell	7
Lucia B. Terrell	1	John Northington	1
William B. Stephens	1	A. G. Haley	9
Luke Sprouce	10	David Reed	4
Ima Sprouce	1	Nathaniel Waller, Sr.	1
Elizabeth Allen	3	William B. Bradley	8
James G. Konig	1	M. A. Price	1
Thermon Evans	11	William Trulove	1
Eraseal Dorsey	1	Isaac Mayfield	2
James G. Young	2	I. B. Cantrell	1
B. Manston	1	Melvina Cantrell	1
Gabriel Patrick	8	James Metcalf	68
Isaac Cooper	3	I. B. and A. K. Metcalf	10
A. White	2	I. B. Bankhead	16
I. Jackson	1	Barnet M. Clay	9
Alex Thompson	1	John C. Price	10
Isaac Davison	9	Moser Hodges	8
Martha Davis	1	Stephen Blanchard	4
Eluciuss Thompson	8	Abijiah Belk	9
Eli Thompson	1	E. K. Belk	1
John Lawhorn	6	Robert Smith	7
I. M. Pearce	2	Levi Northington	16
A. L. McDonald	2	T. I. Smith	2
Isaac Atkins	1		
Total Number Slaves			807
Total Number Owners			164

Department Archives, Washington, D. C.

FAMILIES

THE TERRELL FAMILY

The roots of Marion County go back to Virginia. Some of the leading families in early Virginia were the Lees, Randolphs, Carters, Pages, Byrds and Terrells. The Terrell Family has been traced back to 443 B. C. when they lived in the Crimea now Russia. Some of them went to Spain and others to England where they migrated to America. This migration of the family came mostly in 1764 when they settled in Virginia and the Carolinas.

Col. Harry Terrell was a soldier in the Revolutionary Army and was wounded at the Battle of Kings Mountain, under the leadership of General Francis Marion. Among the children of Col. Harry Terrell, was a son, John Dabney Terrell, Sr., born in Bedford County Virginia in 1773 and died in Marion County in 1850. Before moving to Alabama he spent 15 years in Franklin County Georgia. He was a member of the Georgia legislature, a justice of the inferior court, and an officer in the Georgia Militia. He was a great orator and took an active interest in politics. When he came to Alabama, he went to the great Council Tree of Indians in Monroe County, Mississippi. The Indians told him that if he would go back to the Buttahatchee River area they would not molest him as this was used mainly as an Indian hunting ground. He settled at Pikeville in 1815 and was appointed Indian Agent for this area by Andrew Jackson.

After the Battle of New Orleans the army was ordered to cut a military road from Natchez to Nashville. This military highway crossed the Buttahatchee River at Military Ford about three miles south of the present Hamilton. The story is told that while this road was being cut that General Jackson stayed with Col. Terrell and that his soldiers used his wash pot to make coffee for the army.

John D. Terrell, Sr., was a member of the superior court in Alabama in 1819, and a senator from 1819 to 1822. He died in 1850 and was buried in an upright position, in an unmarked grave, on the South side of Military Ford.

One of John Dabney Terrell, Sr., sons was John Dabney Terrell, Jr., who was born in Chatham County, Georgia, in 1801. He married a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Meadors. They had five children, one boy and four girls. Mary A. Terrell married Captain Albert James Hamilton. Annie Terrell married Bare Middleton Cantrell. Sarah Katherine Terrell married John A. Pope, who filled the unexpired term of Judge Terrell. A grandson of Judge Terrell was the late William H. Cantrell, who served the county as circuit clerk and probate judge

for 12 years. A great grandson, Lynchmore Cantrell served as senator from Marion County.

The county was created in 1818 and Judge Terrell represented it in the territorial Legislature at St. Stephens and at the Constitutional convention at Huntsville. It is said that when the convention was naming the counties of Alabama from the various Revolutionary War generals, that Judge Terrell suggested that this county be named from General Francis Marion, his grandfather's commanding general in the Revolutionary War.

Judge Terrell served the county as circuit clerk and as probate judge for 45 years. He died in 1885 and was buried at Pikeville.

THE KEY FAMILY

Very few family records are available, but that of the Key family has been written and preserved. This record serves among the best available information during the late fifties and during and following the Civil War.

The Key Family came from Americus, Georgia, in 1858. They moved in covered wagons and several of their neighbors came with them. Some of these wagons were pulled by oxen and the others by mules. They came by way of Montgomery, Tuscaloosa and Pikeville. It took them several months to make the trip. The main reason for coming was that, "the land was cheap and many gravely springs." John Daniel, Josh Cunningham, and David Gaskins came with them. Many of the other neighbors came later as the Browns, Hodges, Dunns, and others. The Keys brought two slaves, a girl named Mary Ann, for which they had paid one thousand dollars. She stayed with them all through the civil war. They first bought the place where Elbert Irvin now lives but later bought 920 acres around the Key Springs.

The Gaskins and Belks settled on Woods Creek, the Daniels and Cunninghams near Smyrna. Also the Rev. Fletcher Jones lived there. Cornel Helverstein first bought the area where Hamilton now stands. He later married Miss Tululla Walker of Barnesville and moved to Guntown, Mississippi.

During the Civil War, many raiding parties from both the Southern and Northern Armies raid this area and one account says that all the houses in Hamilton were burned. And others say that all were burned but three. During the War the Helversteins and Cashions got a furlough from the army and went to Allens Factory to get thread to make necessary garments. On one occasion the Yankees ransacked the house, fed all the corn to their horses and stole the Keys horses and buggy.

Dr. Key, Miss Elliot and her sister taught many small schools in this area and other states. Dr Key taught a small

school where the Dormitory now stands (some say it was where the Pam Am Filling Station is located) He taught "standing up spelling, long reading lessons, and some geography and arithmetic." The pupils in this school were: Robert Cashion, Emma White, Tuschie Cashion, John Owen, Charley Owen, Missouri Clark, Frank Carpenter, Ellis Carpenter, Viny Carpenter, Walt Carpenter, and Andrew Carpenter, Elliot and Michie Key. All the Carpenters were the children of Tom Carpenter.

Other early families were: Rev. Bob Bolin, Hemely Glasscock, Ras Mixon, Jerry Neil, Watkins, McMullens, and Monaghans.

The Keys moved to Mud Creek in Fayette County but after a few years moved back to Toll Gate. The father and two daughters taught school in many of the surrounding schools. Some of these were: Barnsville, Harris School, Lebanon, Arkansas, Medcalf, Mt. Pleasant in Mississippi, Jims Creek Academy, Smyrna, Bexar, Crews, Howells, and Sulligent. In 1883 and 1884, J. F. White taught a school in Hamilton. He taught Latin, Bookkeeping, and Geometry.

THE LOYD FAMILY

William P. Loyd, James Loyd, Stephen Carroll Loyd and Ishan James Loyd all came to Marion County from Lincoln County, Tennessee, before the Civil War. This migration seems to have been between 1840 and 1850.

William P. Loyd was a minister and served as chaplin in the Civil War.

Ishan James Loyd settled in the Pine Springs community three miles from Sulligent, and married Rachel Caroline Young. He served in the Confederate Army for three years in North Mississippi, and around Yazoo and Vicksburg. His letter of September 25, 1862, states, "Price's whole army is here and around here. He had a small fight near Iuka and lost 200 men. Direct your letters to Tupelo, Moore's Brigade, Portise's Regiment in charge of Captain Riley Dorett." October 15, 1862, from "Mississippi, six miles below Holly Springs." October 31, 1862, "We are still in the same place." Later November 15, 1862, "Our post office is from Holly Springs, supposing they are going to be attacked by a large force of Yankees." January 18, 1863, "Camp near Vicksburg."

Returning from the war Mr. Loyd bought land on Bull Mountain Creek and was followed by his brother-in-law, Thomas Young and Dr. John H. Young. For a time they farmed and ran a store. Later they built a cotton gin, grist mill, flour mill, carding factory, blacksmith shop, a kiln for making jugs, churns, pitchers and tombstones. Some time after Mr. Loyd built a combined church and school house. He served as teacher and was secretary to the board of stewards. With

his aid a new post office was secured and named Bull Mountain. He served as postmaster for 30 or 40 years and took an active part in county politics.

Reference: Col. James Edgar Shotts, Jasper, Alabama.

THE SHOTTS FAMILY

John Shotts was born in 1815 in South Carolina and moved to Marion County with his parents in 1839. His father was a blacksmith, carpenter and later a farmer. John married Francis Stone the daughter of John Stone. They settled on a homestead, a mile or two northeast of Mr. Stone's house, now Shottsville, and lived here until 1862. After the Battle of Shilo, in which his nephew, Peter N. Shotts was killed and another nephew, David Hillard Shotts was wounded as Confederate veterans, John Shotts and his large family moved to Tennessee, where his oldest sons joined the Federal Army. During the war he and several of his youngest children died and were buried there. After the war his widow, Francis Shotts, and her soldier sons and younger children moved back to their old homestead in Marion County. She is buried in the Shottsville Cemetery. One of her children, Jabous G. Shotts was a school-teacher and was said to be self educated in Greek and Latin. He enlisted in Company D. First Alabama Infantry Regiment (Federal) and became a sergeant in that organization. He was wounded in battle from Confederate gun fire and spent a long time in the Federal Hospital at Memphis. He died in 1866 and was buried in the Shottsville Cemetery. Another son, William Thornton Shotts was a private in Company D. 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment (Federal) and served in that outfit until the close of the war. He returned to his mother's home and became a farmer. He married Louisiana Moore in 1879 and spent the rest of his life in the Shottsville Community.

Lovid C. Shotts as an infant, moved with his parents from South Carolina. He married Elvira Stone the daughter of John Stone and homesteaded a place where they lived for 15 years. He then moved to Stoneville. When application was made for a post office it was changed to Shottsville. In addition to farming, he was a blacksmith and cabinet maker. Mr. Shotts built a grist mill, cotton gin and opened a store, and became the furnishing merchant of the community. Also he secured a location for a church and school house for the community. Supplies were hauled from Iuka, Aberdeen and Columbus for his customers. Lovid C. Shotts was loyal to the Confederacy and his sons joined the Confederate Army as soon as they were old enough. One of his sons, John McCarley Shotts, joined Rice's Light Artillery, at the age of 18. After several months of inactivity as a guard of the Columbus Arsenal, he ran away and joined C. E. Merchant's Cavalry Regiment in North Mississippi. After the war he returned to his father's farm. Later he bought a farm and established his own cotton gin. He was active in keeping informed on political issues

of the day and was the only one in the community to subscribe for the St. Louis Globe and the Philadelphia Ledger. Mr. Shotts was an enthusiastic fisher and hunter. He greatly enjoyed telling stories of his war experiences.

These are some of the early Shotts who built Shottsville and surrounding communities. Col. James Edgar Shotts has a complete history of the family. It is too long to print in this book.

THE PEARCE FAMILY

Jim Pearce, the son of John M. W. Pearce came from the Carolinas and settled at Pearces Mill in 1846. He established a water mill, store, flour mill, saw mills and was an extensive farmer. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and was a captain in the Confederate Army. He owned 30,000 acres of land at his death in 1915. He married Delila Elizabeth Clark of Hamilton in 1846. He had three children: Clovis, Augustus and Marvin. The Pearces are said to have owned the first slaves in Marion County. Marvin was born in 1879 at Pearces Mill. He attended the University and Auburn and was a famous football player at both schools. He married Mamie Lillich of Carbon Hill and had two sons, Jim and Clark who also won great fame as football players at University and Auburn. Marvin Pearce was said to have owned the first automobile in Marion County, a Cadillac, bought in 1910. At the time of his death he was Vice President of the Marion County Banking Company and engaged in many businesses in and around Winfield.

THE DAVIS FAMILY

Samuel M. Davis was born in Gwennit County, Georgia, in 1844, son of Jessie Davis and married Elvira McGee. In the Civil War he served with the St. Clair County, 58 Alabama Infantry, Bates Brigade, Stewarts Division, Buckner Corps. He saw service at Chicamauga, Missionary Ridge. At Missionary Ridge the conflict was so bitter that many had to be left without a Christian burial. "Sherman was so close behind us that we could not stop," mourned the old Confederate. Later he was transferred to the command of General Bedford Forest. To his last day he talked about "The Wizzard of the Saddle," as he gazed into the eyes of his soldiers. After Appamatox, Samuel W. Davis, like thousands of defeated Southern Veterans returned to his home. It was a wilderness of weeds and brambles. His cattle and personal property was scattered to the four winds and he had no money, no food, no help, except his own faith in his strong arms. He bought a little farm on Bull Mountain Creek among the hills of Marion, and married Emily Lacy. William Columbus Davis was the oldest child of this union, born in Mississippi and spent his youth in Marion

County and his later life at Jasper. He lived 35 miles from a railroad and his educational advantages were meager. He prepared himself to teach at 18 years of age. He read law while teaching and when he was elected to the legislature, he put this legal knowledge to a good advantage. He was instrumental in removing the state prisoners from the mines and is said to have established the Sixth District Agricultural School at Hamilton. He was Lieutenant Governor of Alabama from 1927 to 1931. He married Miss Maud Grey.

CAPTAIN A. J. HAMILTON

Captain A. J. Hamilton was born in Marion County December 7, 1833. He was reared and educated in the county.

In 1861 he enlisted in Company G, 16 Ala. Infantry for 13 months. Because of illness he was released and after staying at home for four months, he organized the Company 7, Fifth Mississippi Calvary, and was elected captain. He was wounded at Thompson's Station while leading his company. He again returned and raised another company, of the Seventh Alabama Regiment, was again elected captain and served with this outfit until the close of the war. He took part in the battle of Thompson's Station, Harrisburg, Nunan and Athens. At the battle of Thompson's Station he was wounded in the left shoulder by a mini ball.

He was a Democrat and was elected sheriff for one term and represented Marion County in the state legislature in the sessions of 1869, 1874, and 1875. He was a large planter and in 1893 he owned 8,000 acres of land, besides a grist mill. In 1865 he married Mary L. Terrell, a daughter of John Dabney Terrell, Jr., who was probate judge for 42 years. This union was blessed with seven children. They were: Albert, Jr., Ella, Ida, Effie, John, Icy and Henry. Icy married W. B. Ford and still lives in Hamilton.

THE WIGINTON FAMILY

The Wigintons came from England to Virginia. From there they went to other states, some of which were North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama.

The first Wiginton families of Marion County came from Blount County, Alabama, where they settled about 1828, having gone there from South Carolina. William, John, James, Thomas, and Martin Wiginton were the early ones in Blount County. William and John moved to Marion County about 1842.

William Wiginton was born in 1801 in South Carolina. He married in Blount County on May 3, 1836 Miss Loretia Ballard, who was born on October 15, 1815 in South Carolina. Their children were Thomas, Pleasant, Anthony, Lorenso,

Martha, Nancy, Mary, Jasper, Newton, Sarah, James, Cuitman, and Simon.

John Wiginton was born in 1803 in South Carolina. He first married Miss Peggy Thompson in Blount County on March 3, 1829. They were the parents of Martin, John and Obediah. On May 3, 1840 he married Miss Joicy Herndon. Their children were Nancy, George, Washington, James, Cyntia, Thomas, Martha, Floyd, Lucinda, and Mary.

William and John Wiginton have many descendants. A large number of them live in Marion County and in other sections of Alabama.

Thomas Westley Wiginton, who was born August 27, 1837 and died March 11, 1917, was the son of William Thomas, lived and reared his family about one and one-half miles north of Hamilton. He was the father of fifteen children, most of whom lived in Marion County. Among them were William J., and Anderson Wiginton. Their mother was Emaline (Brown) Wiginton, who was born November 20, 1839 and died June 28, 1878. She was the daughter of William M. and Rebecca Brown.

Thomas Westley Wiginton was a member of the Board of County Commissioners when the present Marion County Court House was built. He was also a member of the School Board when the West Alabama Agricultural School, located in Hamilton, Alabama, was established.

Anderson Wiginton was the oldest citizen of Hackleburg when he passed away on October 1, 1957 at the age of eighty-nine years.

THE FITE FAMILY

B. E. Fite (Bloomer Rankin) was originally from Georgia. He came from Belgreen, Franklin County to Hamilton in 1886, just four years after the county seat was moved from Pikeville to Hamilton. He practiced law until he was made Register of Chancery Court. He held this office until his death in 1919.

Earnest B. Fite was elected to the Alabama Senate in 1911 and 1916 was elected Representative from Marion County. Sometime during this period he introduced and sponsored a bill, which was passed, authorizing the state to pay \$25,000.00 to build the present High School building at Hamilton. Five thousand was to be raised locally. During his time in the House and Senate, he was instrumental in building good roads. He worked faithfully and hard to get our first good roads. He was vice president of the Marion County Banking Company from its beginning in 1912 until 1932 when he was elected president, the position he held until his death in 1954.

Kelly V. Fite was appointed, by Governor James E. Folsom, Judge of the newly created 25th Judicial Circuit on August 16, 1947, which comprises Marion and Winston Counties. At

the general election in November of 1952 he was elected to serve the six year term to said office, where he served until his death in 1954.

Fred Fite was court reporter of Walker County at the age of 16. He attended Law School in Washington, D. C., and received his Law Degree from the University of Alabama. While there he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, Skull and Key and honorary law society. He first went to the Legislature from Tuscaloosa County in 1914 and later served two terms as representative and one term as senator from Jefferson County. While he was serving as senator he sponsored a bill which paved the way for the building of the New County Court House in Birmingham. Before leaving Birmingham for Hamilton, he was deputy of Jefferson County Court. He spent his last years at Hamilton and died on February 8, 1954.

Arthur, the oldest son, has been practicing law in Jasper for many years and is still carrying on.

Hugh Fite promoted and secured industries for Hamilton and other areas of the county. Some of the industries he secured were: Marion Mills (Munsing Wear), Hamilton; Minnesota Mining Company, Guin; Housing Authoraties of Hamilton, Guin, Hackleburg, Brilliant, and Bear Creek. At the time of his death he was owner and manager of Radio Station WERH at Hamilton.

THE BANKHEAD FAMILY

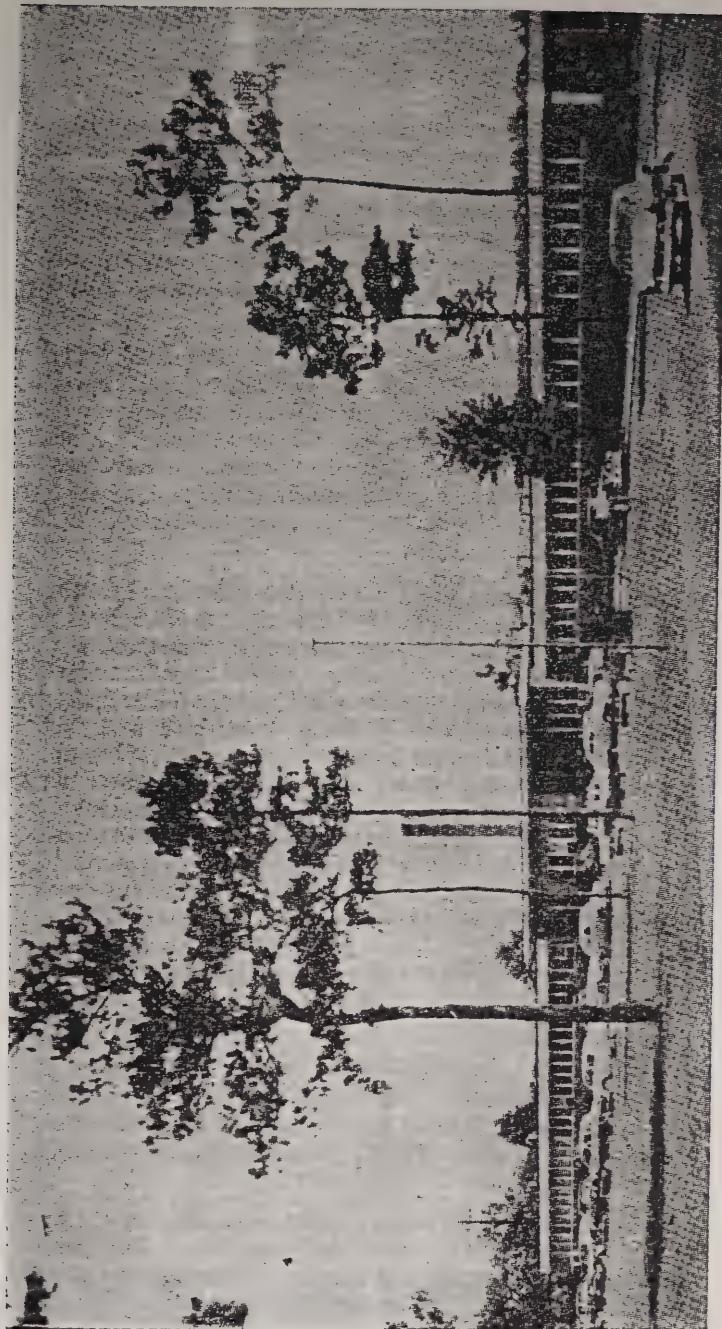
James Greer and Susan Hollis Bankhead came from Union District South Carolina in 1816 and settled at Moscow, near Sulligent, in Marion County.

James Greer Bankhead was the father of John Hollis Bankhead, who was born September 13, 1842. John got his early education in the school of Marion County. In 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company K, 16th Alabama Regiment, and took part in the battles of Perryville, Murphesboro, Fishing Creek and the battles of the Western Army. After the Battle of Shilo he became Captain of the 16th Alabama and was wounded in the battle of Chicaumaga. When the war closed Captain Bankhead returned to Moscow. In 1865 he was elected to the State Legislature and in 1887 to the U. S. Congress, where he served for the next 20 years. In 1907 he was elected to the U. S. Senate. He served in the Senate until his death in 1920. He and Oscar Underwood were known as the Champions of Good Roads in the U. S. The Bankhead Highway No. 78, which runs from Washington, D. C. to San Diego, California, was named for him. This is one of the main highways of Marion County.

John Hollis Bankhead was the father of John H. Bankhead, Jr., William B. Bankhead, Col. Henry Bankhead, and Marie Bankhead Owens. William B. Bankhead was elected to Con-

gress in 1917 and was Speaker of the House at the time of his death in 1941. John H. Bankhead, Jr., was elected to the Senate in 1930 and served until his death. Col. Henry Bankhead served in various army posts throughout the world. Among these were: Cuba in the Spanish American War, Philippines, and Col. in the First World War in charge of the 81 Division in France. Marie Bankhead Owens was Custodian of the Department of Archives in Montgomery for many years. Walter Will Bankhead served in the unexpired term in Congress in 1943. One or more members of the Bankhead Family served in one branch of Congress for a period of 56 years.

HEALTH



Lester Hill Hospital

HEALTH IN MARION COUNTY

REFERENCES: "Marion County Herald" - Late 1880's
"Marion County News" - In 1900's.
Mangrum's tomb epitaph.
Marion County Health Department.

In the early part of the nineteenth century when the first white people in Marion County were getting their new homes established, they often needed a doctor just as we do today. Because of great distances and slow travel, the pioneers tried many home remedies before putting forth an effort to get a doctor. Sometimes the people were too poor to have a doctor, and sometimes the illness was of a nature that acted too quickly to allow time to get one.

Most of the pioneers in Marion County started an herb bed along with their first vegetable gardens for it was many miles to the drug store and medicines were few. Catnip tea was given to babies for colic. Swollen parts were bathed in mullen tea, and perhaps a mullen poultice applied. Mutton tallow was mixed with camphor and used to rub chests, throats, and noses when people had colds. Without camphor, mutton tallow was good for chapped hands and lips.

To get a doctor in early days, a messenger had to be sent. The doctor's horse had to be saddled or hitched to a buggy. If he rode a horse, medicine and instruments were carried in his saddle bags. The doctor would look at his patient's tongue and feel his pulse. He had to guess how high the fever might be. People frequently had chills. The cause of chills was then believed to be because of playing in creek, camping near the creek, or eating too much watermelon. Calomel, castor oil, Alum, and quinine were the most common used medicines. If a patient had a sore throat, the doctor might blister the outside of his throat to "draw the fever out" and he would be tucked into bed. If the patient had a cold in the chest, his chest would be blistered. He would be given a hot tea and otherwise treated as if he had a cold. Nobody knew the cause or cure of yellow fever. People would tie bags of asafoetida around their necks and chew onions, hoping to escape yellow fever and other diseases.

Dr. John Mangrum moved from Newberry District, South Carolina to Marion County in 1852. He died in 1861 and was buried near his home which was 5 miles west of Hamilton. Another early doctor was Dr. M. H. Key. He moved from Georgia to Marion County in 1854.

In the late 1880's the physicians of Marion County organized a medical board and applied to the state for a charter. Dr. A. L. Moorman, physician and surgeon of Bexar, was president of the board. Dr. M. C. Martin, of Hamilton, was secretary. Dr. W. Guyton, physician and surgeon of Hamilton, was the county's first health officer. His salary was forty dollars.

Other known doctors of this time were Dr. Thompson who moved from town to spend the summer in the country. Dr. Howell of Ireland Hill, and Dr. W. S. Holloday of Shottsville. The medical board met and certificates were issued to Drs. J. W. Howell, J. B. Guin, G. W. Vaughn and L. H. Vaughn. A botanic doctor, Dr. B. W. Roden, came to Allen's Factory on Saturday before the first Sunday in each month for the purpose of treating chronic diseases. His advertisement in the paper read, "I practice for cash and cash only, except in cases where my patients have been prompt in their payments here-to fore." Dentist R. L. Bradley of Vernon came to Hamilton during court week each fall to practice dentistry.

During the year of 1888, yellow fever was raging in Jacksonville, Florida. The health officer placed a quarantine against Jacksonville, Florida and all other infected places beginning on Friday. The people of the county complained so much about visitors not being allowed to come into the county that the officer lifted the quarantine on the following Monday. Because of the Yellow Fever epidemics, mail was slow. It had to be thoroughly fumigated at Birmingham and Memphis. A cure for Yellow Fever was advertised in the "Marion County Herald." It was an electrical treatment. I can find no account of anyone trying the treatment.

People in the late 1880's were warned against eating too much watermelon and cabbage. These foods were believed to cause a sickness called "melon-colic" and other summer time diseases. Other warnings were that the people should look after the decaying carcasses of dead hogs, which were many at this time, and try to get rid of rats. A new discovery for catching rats was found — a pot of water covered with cotton-seed.

Common diseases of the late 1880's were as follows: mumps, pneumonia, bad colds, "grippe," dysentery, congestion, fever, chills, consumption, dyphtheria, insanity, paralysis, cancer, and catarrhal fever. Some of the patent medicines advertised in the "Marion County Herald" were as follows: Hood's Sarsaparilla, Benson's Porous Plaster, Prickly Ash Bitters, Harter's Iron Tonic, Brown's Iron Bitters, Pise's Cure for Consumption, Swayne's Ointment, Popham's Asthma Specific, and Lyon's Tasteless Syrup of Quinine. Each medicine was recommended to cure many diseases. One example was: "Brown's Iron Bitters cures dyspepsia, indigestion, weakness, impure blood, malaria, chills, fever, diseases of kidney and liver, etc."

In the early 1900's artificial immunities were begun in the county. From 1927 to 1929 and in cooperation with a state wide program, Marion County sanitized almost 100 per cent of its schools in the ways of toilets.

The American Legion was the first organization of the county to endorse and petition for a county health unit. Then the Association of Doctors endorsed and requested the county

to employ a health unit. All this caused the county to appropriate its part of the money, which was about half, for the employment of the unit. On January 1, 1931, Marion County became the 54th county in the state to employ a full time health unit. This consisted of the following four people: Dr. L. L. Parks, health officer; Miss Mary High, Nurse; P. Kyle, sanitary inspector; Miss Gera Cantrell, secretary. The election of the health officer is done by the medical association of the county. The first work of the health unit was school examinations, 4-H Club work, hookworm survey and treatment, and sanitation by the inspector. On January 22, 1931, the county health department announced free vaccination for small pox, typhoid fever, and diphtheria to be given to all citizens. In 1955 the department started free polio vaccinations.

In the early 1940's clinics were built in Hamilton and Guin. Winfield opened its hospital August 3, 1949. The Lester Hill Hospital at Hamilton was dedicated on December 23, 1951. On the first Lister Hill staff was G. S. Davis, administrator; Mrs. Cordie Mae Lindsey, office; Miss Mary Jo Palmer, office; Mrs. Lamode S. Rose, head nurse; and Ralph Wallace, laboratory and X-ray. There were eleven other nurses, three cooks and three maintenance men.

There were many hardships for the first white settlers in Marion County, but they tried to be happy. They seemed to realize that recreation would help in achieving healthy bodies and minds. There is no doubt but what the pastime the settlers indulged in was a great asset to their success.

The first recreation in Marion County probably took place in camp where the pioneer travelers stopped to spend the night or to look out a location. Some one in the party was most sure to have a banjo, French harp, Jew's-harp, or accordian; so they would play, sing, and perhaps dance and jig a bit. They also played games and told stories.

After the pioneers had located and built their homes, they were not together much because they lived far apart, worked hard, and visited little. Much of their getting together served a two-fold purpose — getting big jobs of work done and having fun. Some such activities were log rollings, house raisings, quiltings, and corn huskings. This work was usually followed with big dinners, candy pullings, or dances with music and singing.

A great pleasure afforded our earliest settlers was the camp meeting. Besides getting religion, these were occasions where the people could talk over everyday affairs, share lunches, and the young people could meet.

When the pioneers did visit, they spent the whole day, week end, or several days. The circuit rider and peddler were very welcome visitors. (Mr. Levi Winsett was a churn peddler). They were the only source of news from afar off. The town

store and livery stable were places where men liked to gather and talk. There was not much business to be attended to and very few letters and newspapers.

This was good hunting and fishing area and the men made good use of this. Sometimes several families would plan a fishing party together. The women would prepare some food at home and carry it along to go with the fish that would be caught and cooked on the bank. The party would fish awhile with hooks and then the men would seine. There were usually games such as checkers for the ones who tired of fishing.

In the late 1880's the people of Hamilton enjoyed fishing parties, hunting, tacky parties, picnics, singings, sociables, dances, checkerboards, croquet, school marches, school exhibitions, public speaking, kankaree court, serenading, and Christmas trees. A debating society was organized in the High School. Some special events were traveling shows. How's New London Circus showed in Winfield. A Canadian elecutionist put on a show in the Court House. The Teets Brothers gymnastic and trapeze performers also put on a show in Hamilton.

Some of the above mentioned entertainments have given away to all day singings and decorations. Almost every community sets aside one day for decoration and singing. People come from far and near to honor their dead and enjoy fellowship with old friends. One day in 1957 there were nine decorations in the Hamilton area on one Sunday. These usually take place in the months of May and June. During election years nearly all the candidates appear at these gatherings for electioneering purposes. The old Sacred Harp singings are still held in some communities, but they seem to be dying out due to the fact that young people are no longer taught how to sing the four notes.

In the early thirties picture shows were first shown in the county and soon each town had a showing place. During the thirties there was a radio purchased for nearly every home in the county. The radio broadcasting station — WERH — was established in 1950 and carries local and national programs.

With government aid and local effort, Winfield built a community house in 1939. Since then they have gotten a skating rink and a swimming pool. In the early 1950's a county lake was built where much swimming and fishing is done. Near the lake are picnic facilities which are used extensively.

Personnel of Marion County Health Department

The County Health Officers : Dr. L. L. Parks, 1931; Dr. W. T. Burkett, 1933; Dr. T. L. Owens, 1936; Dr. B. W. Selled, 1937; Dr. T. L. Owens, 1938; Dr. H. C. McRee, 1939; Dr. M. S. White, 1945; Dr. T. R. Wear, 1949; Dr. S. S. Busby, 1955 to date.

The Sanitation Officers: P. Kyle, 1931; Claude P. Owens, 1936; D. P. Griffin, 1937; James A. Hargett, 1939; Ralph Q. Bostic, 1947; Dayton Nichols, 1949 to date.

The County Nurses: Miss Mary High, 1931; Miss Ora Reneau, 1934; Mrs. Mamie L. Riley, 1937; Miss Mary Frances Nolon, 1938; Miss Bertha Kimbrough, 1940; Miss Mildred Malone, 1941; Mrs. Ola Mae Atkinson, 1942; Mrs. Rachel Ester, 1943 to 1958.

LEGENDS

"RAN FROM HOOP SNAKE"

Mrs. Maude Miller Says

Mrs. Maude Miller of Haleyville supports those who say there is such a thing as a hoop snake, and agrees that they "roll like a barrel hoop."

She gave her experience along this line in a letter to the Haleyville Advertiser:

"I just finished reading about the hoop snake Mr. Phillips found. I have seen two hoop snakes in my life and I, being the oldest child in the family, had to take a boy's place."

"I was reared one and one-half miles from Guin on the road between Winfield and Guin. In plowing I have plowed up several of the horn snakes with a horn on the end of their tails."

"Now a hoop snake is much longer and black, with yellow specks all over it. When it travels, it rolls like a barrel hoop and when it strikes, it kills, so I have been told. I know I climbed a ten-rail fence to keep from being struck by one."

"Old people said one struck an oak tree at Old Pikeville and the tree was dead by night. I can't vouch for the truth of this, for I was just a little girl. But I do know I ran from the hoop snake and plowed up several horn snakes."

"I am sure there are still plenty of them on the old Pratt farm today."

Mrs. Maude Miller

MADSTONE

Ever hear of a madstone? Well, don't bother to look in your dictionary. Webster doesn't describe this age old remedy for snake and mad dog bites. But Mr. G. C. Williams, Rt. 1, Hamilton, Alabama, can describe it for you. This is the story of the "Terrell Madstone" that Mr. and Mrs. Williams have possessed for decades:

A pioneer called "Ridge Bill" Terrell, during the early days of the state found the madstone when he cut up a deer he had killed. Terrell lived on a land grant five miles southeast of Hamilton. Recognizing the stone as one of unusual powers he prized it as a madstone.

In those early days the stone treated hundreds who had been bitten by snakes or mad dogs. "Ridge Bill," born in 1821,

died in 1891, and the stone passed to his wife, Samantha. She refused \$700 for it.

Many years later, Mrs. Terrell sold the property and possessions of "Ridge Bill" to her granddaughter's husband, George Cleveland Williams, who bought the land and paid \$20 extra for the madstone.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams tell many tales of the stone's power. There is the story of the girl who went mad after being bitten by a rabid dog. The girl had not allowed the madstone to stick to the bite.

Mr. Williams says the stone has never failed to protect a victim if it stuck to the bite. The length of time the madstone has clung to a wound has varied from a few hours to a whole week. (The latter in the case of a man who was bitten by a rabid mule).

Mrs. Williams explains that although people have come from miles around and forded rivers to get the treatment, she received only \$5 for the use of the stone.

There is no ceremony or ritual. The madstone is simply pressed on the bite and held there until its power starts drawing out the poison. Gravity will not pull it off once it has started clinging. However, it is usually wrapped with cloth if the victim is going to bed. The cloth keeps the patient from knocking it off.

The Loyd family, also of Hamilton, has a madstone that came from the stomach of a deer, but very little information is available on it, although Morgan Loyd claims his sister has the stone and fabulous offers have been turned down.

When asked for his ideas on the power of madstones, Dr. S. S. Busby, Marion County Health Officer, said: "I've heard about them all my life. My father used to talk about people being treated with the things. But I've never seen one and know nothing about them."

Mrs. Leota Mitchell, County Registrar, says she can remember folks so desperate to use the madstone that they would rent boats to cross the river during floods.

Fact or fake—these are the legends of a passing era. But don't take the legends too lightly, a lot of people have been cured with faith.

LEGEND OF JOHN DABNEY TERRELL

The legend of the burial of John Dabney Terrell, Sr. has been told so often that most residents of Marion County believe it is true. He died in 1850 and was buried at Military Ford in an unmarked grave. It is said that he was buried sitting up in his coffin or box, like his illustrious Indian friends. In the

casket above the door a gun was placed, in the left side a water bucket, dipper, wash pan, and hand towels, in the right side was placed food, and on the floor a pallet for his dog. Six of the Terrells were buried in the same manner on the south side of the Indian Mound at Military Ford, and their slaves on the flat land below. There are no markers to the graves.

CREWS ACADEMY

The first college located in Northwest Alabama was located in what was Marion County at that time. It was twenty steps northeast of the depot at Crews, Alabama. The building was built in somewhat the shape of a letter T. The top of the T faced the road and was used for class rooms, one room solely for the girls and taught by a lady. The other front room was for boys and taught by a man. The back room was a music room where the boys had classes in the morning taught by a young lady but posed as a boy. In the evening she wore a wig and dressed as a lady. Since it was not a proper thing to do to have the girls and boys mixing, there was a tall fence made out of hewed logs that divided the front of the house in halves and extended to the road on the back. That house had a tall fence extending several feet back. This fence was to make sure no girl saw a boy or a boy saw a girl while at school. The story goes that the three teachers were of one family. The husband, the wife and the daughter who was thought to be a very handsome young gentleman. Also in the evening, she was a very beautiful young woman.

JOHN BULL

By Robert L. Shirley

In the late 1500's and early 1600's, there was in England an accomplished musician and composer by the name of John Bull.

He was hailed on the continent for his musical accomplishments, and was appointed musician to the king's court. Little of his work, however, remains, except in manuscripts in libraries in England.

There was another John Bull included in a group of seven brothers who sailed from England nearly 200 years ago to make their way in the new promised land across the seas, America.

The accomplishments of the latter John Bull vary greatly from the musician, far from the musical saloons of the courts of genteel royalty, the American John Bull was a rugged pioneer who fought Indians, became an expert gunsmith and farmer, and carved a roadway through the wilderness as he hauled his family by wagon into the unsettled, wild Northwest Alabama.



Still tended after generations, John Bull's grave tell a bit of pioneer history.

His grave is located about a mile from Bear Creek in Northeast Marion County — and much has been speculated about: Why is he buried alone? Why is he buried where he is?

Some of his great-grandchildren remember still some of the tales told about this American John Bull.

John had married a Spanish lady whose name now is remembered only as "Miss Bean," and homesteaded in what is now Marion County. Family records show that Mrs. Bull once was scalped by Indians, but survived, as many people did.

Which shows life was rugged in now peaceful Marion County, in days gone by.

Other of John Bull's brothers settled in Tennessee, in what is known as "Bull's Gap," and some went on into what is now Texas.

It isn't known just how many children John Bull and his Spanish wife had, but two were Jacob and Russell Bull. A grandchild, Mrs. Jocie Barnett of Birmingham, is the only known living grandchild of Russell Bull.

Having studied the gunsmith trade in England, John Bull became a renowned gunsmith, and some of his rifles and pistols are collectors' items all over Alabama.

As to why he is buried alone on a hillside, the story that has been passed down through the generations is that his wife was superstitious. When he died, she had his body carried across flowing water for burial "to confine his spirit," or "to keep it from returning."

The grave is still tended, and is the object of much attention.

HISTORICAL GAVEL GIVEN TO HOUSE SPEAKER FITE

A gavel of historic interest to Marion County has been presented to Speaker of the House, Rankin Fite, our county's representative to the State Legislature, by his mother, Mrs. E. B. Fite.

The gavel is made from the wood of a huge oak tree under which the company of soldiers from Marion County was mustered into the Confederate Army at the start of the War between the States.

The tree stood at the side of Judge White's store, which is now the site of the Pan-Am Service Station on the east side of the Court square. The tree was cut down about 18 years ago.

Mrs. Fite, in presenting the gavel to her son in Montgomery last Saturday, gave him also a history of the tree.

Speaker Fite used the gavel for the first time Tuesday to bring the House of Representatives to order for the day's session. At that time he read the history to the group, and it was voted to place the gavel in the Bureau of Archives and History.

According to Mrs. Fite's record, the Company of soldiers mustered in under that huge oak tree were volunteers. Many had come from remote parts of the county and some slept under the tree the night before the company was formed.

The company was formed largely through the efforts of one Col. Helverston. It is said these men did not fight for the perpetuation of slavery since there were few Negroes in Marion County at that time. Rather, they are said to have fought for state's rights and they served for the entire four years duration of the Civil War.

Mrs. Fite recalls the day the old tree was cut down to make room for a new building. She says that at that time she gathered up several large pieces from the tree and from them had several gavels and an urn made. Willis Davis, a carpenter from near Hackleburg, did the work for Mrs. Fite.

COPY OF THE ORIGINAL LAND GRANT

Certificate No. 13480

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas Kimbro Brown of Marion County, Alabama, has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE, at Pontotoc whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Kimbro Brown according to the provisions of two several Treaties with the **Chickasaw Indians**, dated October 20th, 1832, and May 24th, 1834, the act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the several acts of Congress supplemental thereto, for the North East quarter of Section Twenty three, in fractional Township Ten, of Range Fifteen, West of Huntsville, lying in Alabama, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Pontotoc, Mississippi, containing one hundred and sixty acres and twenty hundredths of an acre according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said Kimbro Brown.

NOW KNOW YE, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, **Have Given and Granted**, and by these presents **Do Give and Grant**, unto the said Kimbro Brown, and to his heirs, the said tract, above described: **To Have and To Hold** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Kimbro Brown and to his heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, **John Tyler, President of the United States of America**, have caused these letters to be made **Patent**, and the **Seal** of the **General Land Office** to be hereunto affixed. **Given** under my hand, at the **City of Washington**, the fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three, and of the **Independence of the United States** the Sixty seventh.

By the President

W. O. Wilson, acting Recorder of the General Land Office.

NOTE: The Original Land Grant may be found on next page.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOR I
WILL SUCCEED OR OTHERWISE, have given this letter to my PATENT, and to SEAL OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

GIVEN under my hand at the City of Washington on the first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty five and in the forty fifth year of the Independence of the United States

FARM

AGRICULTURE IN MARION COUNTY

The early agriculture was subsistance farming. Later cotton became the cash crop. Timber has been a good source of income to farmers down through the years. Brown Lumber Co., and Weefol Lumber Co., were pioneers in the timber industry in the county. Stave bolts was a sizeable business before the days of prohibition.

Cotton farming has been the main cash crop through the years. About the time of World War II cotton farming began giving way to other crops and especially to livestock. Labor shortage caused the change over. Broiler, dairy cattle, swine, and a few beef herds make up the livestock of the area. Stepped up yields have brought grain markets to our area. The county has three or more grain elevators at present. Two elevators are located at Hamilton and one at Winfield.

Much interest has been manifested in the soil bank plan to replant forest lands to pine trees in our county.

FARM SITUATION IN 1958

Mr. John Yarborough, County Agricultural Agent of Marion County, gives the following information about the farms of the county of this year.

With the coming of the tractors the farms are increasing in size. In 1945 the average size of the farms was 80 acres, in 1950 it was 92 acres and in 1954 it had increased to 106 acres. More than half of the farm families have at least one member working off the farm. Cudzu, serecia, and several kinds of new clovers are extensively grown for hay and pasture. Most of the families can or freeze enough vegetables for winter use.

The following are some of the principal crops and their income:

Income from ten thousand bales of cotton	\$1,800,000
Income from corn sold	750,000
Income from poultry	400,000
Income from dairy products	350,000
Income from hogs	200,000
Income from beef cattle	150,000

The income from these five crops and animal production was \$3,650,000 (1954).

The horse and mule has been practically replaced by tractors and other self-propelled machinery. At the latest count there were (1954) 909 tractors and 40 harvesters and combines in the county.

POPULATION

According to the 1950 census Marion County has 743 square miles of area and a population of 27,264. This was a decrease of 5.3% from 1940 when the population was 28,766. There was a population of 36.7 per square mile. The average population of Alabama is 59.7 per square mile and of U. S. 50.7 per square mile. The non white population was 2.7%, the foreign born numbered 38, while the negro population was 719. There were 1084 families. The number of college graduates was 230, high school graduates 990, and seventh grade graduates 1200. 76.9% made less than 2,000 dollars per year and only 20 people made over 10,000 dollars per year.

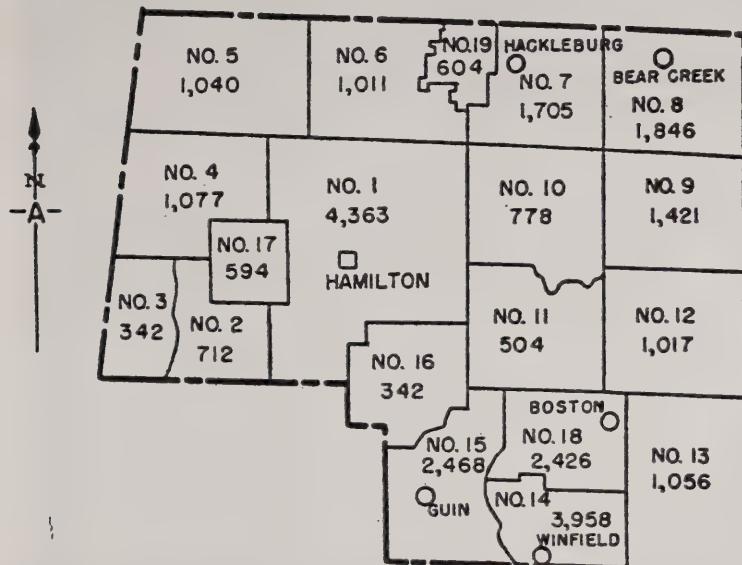
The population of the towns was as follows: Winfield 2,108, Hamilton 1,623, Guin 1,137, Brilliant 700, Hackleburg 534, and Bear Creek 223.

Some of the principal occupations are: farming 3,826, mining 787, manufacturing 765, education 308, retail trade 546, eating places 107, hotels and lodging places 15, medical and health 47, railroad employees 69, and trucking 55.

The population of the county as far as records go is as follows:

1830 — 4,058; 1840 — 5,847; 1850 — 7,833; 1860 — 11,183; 1870 — 6,059; 1880 — 9,361; 1890 — 11,347; 1900 — 14,994; 1910 — 17,495; 1920 — 22,008; 1930 — 25,967; 1940 — 28,776; 1950 — 27,264.

POPULATION DATA



The Alabama State Planning and Industrial Development Board, 1956. Source U. S. Census 1950.

MODERN

INDUSTRIES OF THE COUNTY

Some of the main industries of the county are:

Bear Creek:

Winmar Industries Inc., Poultry and Feeds.

Brilliant:

Carl Lee Trousers, Inc.

Brilliant Coal Co., and numerous other mines.

Guin:

Alabama Oak Flooring Co.

Dennis Lumber Co.

Guin Carbonated Beverage Co., Inc.

Guin Mfg. Co., Shirts

Marion Mills, Nylon products

Minnesota Mining Co., Reflective Paints

Hackleburg:

Hughes Lumber Co.

Mid South Industries, Inc., Shirts.

Thomas Koalin Co., Kaolin products

Hamilton:

Marion Mills, Nylon Products

Harris Box Co., Boxes

Hamilton Feed and Elevator Co.

Burleson Grain and Elevator Co.

Toll Gate Garment Co., Shirts

W. T. Vick Lumber Co.

Winfield:

Camp Trouser Co.

Dan River Mills., Textiles

Harris Lumber Co.

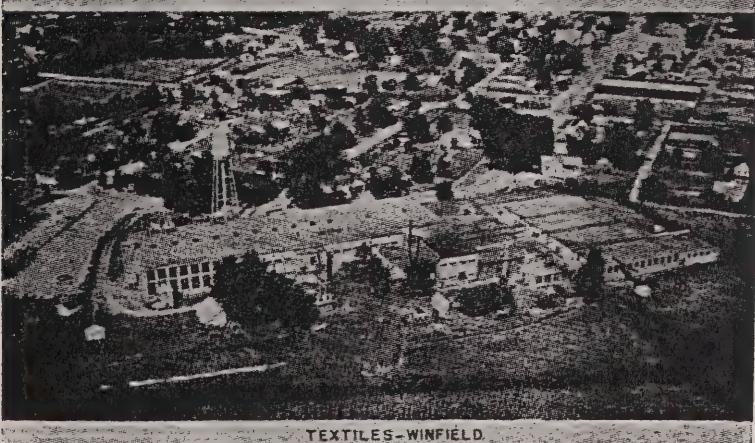
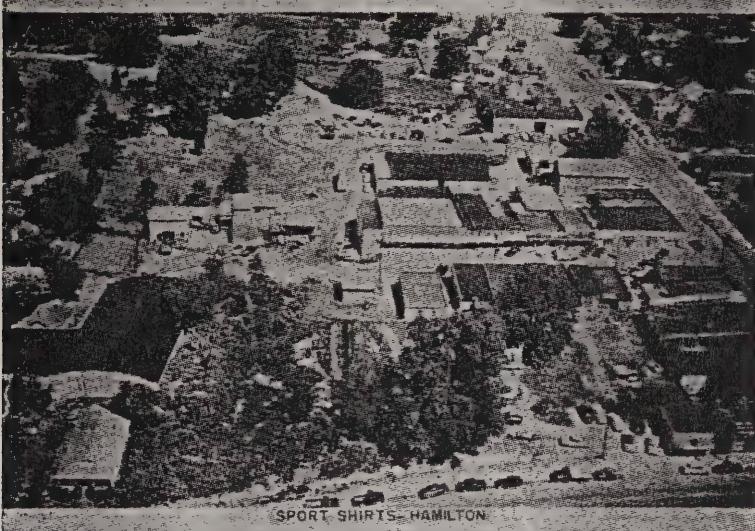
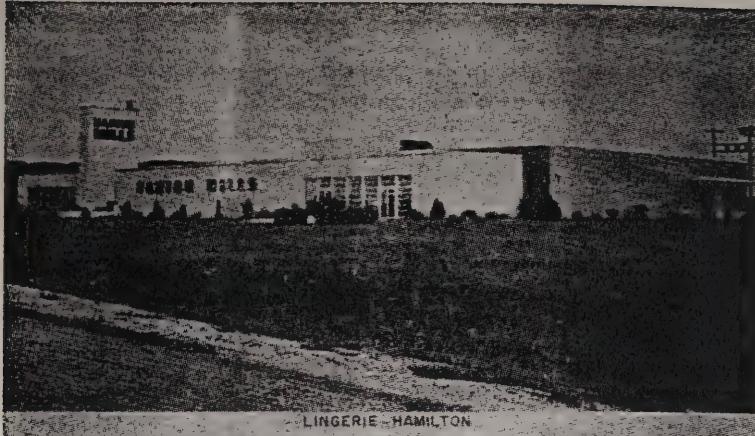
Haney and Sons Lumber Co.

Elgin Plucket Lumber Co.

Winfield Quick Freeze Co.

TAX RATE FOR MARION COUNTY — 1957

State	6.5 mills
County	11.5 mills
School District	3.0 mills
Hamilton	5.0 mills
Hackleburg	5.0 mills
Guin	14.0 mills
Winfield	5.0 mills
Brilliant	15.0 mills
Bear Creek	5.0 mills



BANKS OF MARION COUNTY

There are five banks in the county with combined deposits of \$7,156,418.00 and assets of \$7,659,022.00.

TOWN NAME OF BANK

Winfield:

Citizens Bank —	
Assets	\$2,277,572.00
Deposits	2,085,625.00
Average Daily Clearing	141,658.00

Winfield State Bank —

Assets	\$1,379,056.00
Deposits	1,240,549.00
Average Daily Clearing	90,378.00

Guin and Hamilton:

Marion County Banking Co. —

Assets	\$3,568,156.00
Deposits	3,355,619.00
Average Daily Clearings	
for Guin	66,991.00

Average Daily Clearings	
for Hamilton	119,219.00

Hackleburg:

Bank of Hackleburg —

Assets	\$ 572,845.00
Deposits	474,625.00
Average Daily Clearing	40,377.00

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Masons were organized in the county before 1888. We have not been able to ascertain the exact date. This was the first fraternal organization in the county. It has grown to be very strong through the years. The women have also organized their auxiliary, The Eastern Star.

The Woodman of the World followed the Masons very early in the county. Since then, many other clubs and societies have been organized and are very active in the county. They are: Kiwanian, Civitan, Lions, Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Delta Kappa, Twentieth Century Club, Women's Civic Club, Garden Club, Fine Arts Club, Cosmopolitan Club, Studiosis, Booklovers, Entve Nous, Home Demonstration Club, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, and Panorama Club.

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